

A
HISTORY
OF
DRESDEN

by

ROBERT BRANDON

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of
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THE AUTHOR

Printed To Mark The Occasion

of

DRESDEN'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

JUNE 30 — JULY 5

1954

Printed by The Dresden Times

INDEX

Chapter		Page
1	Early District Settlement	3
2	The British American Institute	7
3	Dresden is Incorporated a Village	16
4	Dresden Proclaimed a Town	23
5	Dresden's Sugar Beet Factory	34
6	Town Utilities — Fire of 1910 — World War II	43
7	Dresden's More Recent Years	48
8	Dresden in 1950	55



St. George Street, Dresden.

HISTORY OF DRESDEN

Chapter One

EARLY DISTRICT SETTLEMENT

The territory now comprising the County of Kent in which the Town of Dresden is located was previous to the year 1790, an unbroken forest. The whole county and surrounding district was covered with magnificent trees. Oak, walnut, whitewood, beech, maple and elm were the chief varieties, and roaming in the forest there were plenty of deer, bears, wolves, foxes and wild turkey. This made a happy hunting ground for the "Red Men" as the Indian inhabitants were called by the early inhabitants from European countries. Ontario was then called Upper Canada and was divided into four districts. Kent County was in the district of Hesse, afterwards known as the Western district. There were no roads, just trailing paths through the forests, leading to small Indian villages here and there in the forest.

The Indians lived here in the primitive simplicity in their rude huts made chiefly of logs and bark. The wild life in the forest and abundance of fish in the lakes and rivers provided them with ample food as well as healthy recreation in gathering it. Here and there, there were open spaces in the forest in which they planted corn, tobacco and vegetables for their own consumption. Their clothing was made chiefly from the skin of animals and the feathers of numerous birds of which there were many varieties. They used the Great Lakes and rivers

as a means of transportation and they had become expert in the construction of light-weight canoes which they were able to propel with considerable speed.

For ages prior to the coming of Europeans to this country, the Indians had lived here in simple fashion. At times the various tribes made war on each other in a most savage manner. But when the hatchet and the spear were put aside and the "Calumet" as the pipe of peace was called, was again taken down, they lived in happy simplicity. As years rolled on the European settlers began to flock into Canada in increased numbers and the Indians became alarmed as they saw the new-comers preparing to take possession of the land. They therefore began to make raids on the new settlers, and they formed a confederation of the Indians having as its objective extermination of the "Pale Face" as they called the new-comers and the restoration of the land to its original owners. This plan, though championed by able Indian leaders like Pontiac and later by Tecumseh, finally failed and the "Pale Face" went forward with the process of settlement and civilization.

In later years we find Tecumseh fighting on the side of the British because he hoped they would assist him to hold the Indian lands in the United States. It was while assisting the English army at the Battle of the Thames in Ontario, that he was killed in action.

It is interesting to note that the land now comprising Essex, Kent, Elgin, the western part of Middlesex and apparently the southern fringe of Lambton County, was not taken from the Indians without a commercial agreement. After they became convinced that they could not drive the white man out of the country, they were ready to make bargains with him and as the settlers were able to get food and other materials that the Indians needed, it was not difficult to arrange terms.

McKEE TREATY —

In May 1790, a treaty called the McKee Treaty was signed by the Indian chiefs of the Ottawas, Chippewas, Hurons and the Pottawatomies and the King's representatives. By this treaty the Indians relinquished ownership of all the land, mentioned above, which rightly or wrongly they claimed to own. The amount to be paid for all the land surrendered was twelve hundred pounds sterling, about five thousand eight hundred dollars. Any one hundred acres in the district to-day, would easily sell for more money. The amount was not to be paid in cash, but in goods of various sorts, blankets, scarlet cloth, ribbons and thread, black silk handkerchiefs, guns and ammunition, looking glasses and fish-hooks, brass kettles, scissors, horn and wory combs, fire steels and pipes, 39 gallons of rum, a bullock, 400 lbs. of tobacco, 24 lace hats, 11 gross of pipes and two gross of knives.

In 1825 a somewhat similar agreement was made with the

Indians in which they ceded Lambton County and a large tract of land extending east almost to Woodstock, for which they were to receive annually five thousand dollars in goods, certain tracts of the land, like Walpole Island were reserved for the Indians in each treaty.

In the years 1790 and 1791 a government surveyor, Patrick McNiff was commissioned to make a survey of the land along the 'La Tranche' as the Thames river was then called. He reported that he had laid out lots along the river front in what is now the townships of Dover, Chatham, Raleigh, Harwich and parts of Howard and Camden, but because the land was in its primitive state, undrained, the lots away from the river were not plotted at that time. It was not long however before these lots along the Thames river were taken up by the incoming settlers.

Most of the early settlers in the County of Kent were British Soldiers, who had fought the Americans in their War of Independence, or United Empire Loyalists. These U. E. Loyalists were Americans who had refused to fight against the British, and at the close of the war many of them were harshly treated by the Independence party. Much of their property had been destroyed or confiscated and they were in destitute circumstances. When these facts became known to the English, the British government agreed to give them free transportation to Canada, and provisions for a time after reaching there. They were given grants of land and the

British Soldiers were given half the army pay, and larger grants of land according to their rank when they were in the army. Many of these Loyalists settled in the Eastern Provinces of Canada and later they began to drift into the Western part of Ontario, where grants of two hundred acres was made to them on condition that they would clear a number of acres each year.

No authentic date previous to 1790 is available, when the first settlers located along the Thames river in Kent County. About that time a family named Parson, located on the south side of the river in what is now called Raleigh Township. His son Edward was the first white child born in the county of Kent. It was not until 1794 however that any considerable settlement was made. In that year the earliest recorded government grants of land were made to settlers along the Thames in Dover, Chatham, Harwich, Howard and Camden Townships. The settlers were supplied with a year's provision of farming implements and two hundred acres of land. The discharged British soldiers who settled here, not being used to farming, did not make as good as settlers as the United Empire Loyalists. Many of them sold their land soon after receiving it, but the U. E. Loyalists rapidly improved the land and soon had comfortable homes.

About the year 1796 Camden Township began to be settled. A man named Joshua Cornwall located on Lot 14 on the Thames river front near the present location of Thamesville. In the year 1800 a son, Nathan was born to

Mr. Cornwall, the first white child to be born in the Township of Camden.

Settlement Along Sydenham —

It was not until the year 1820 that any considerable settlement was made on the Sydenham river in Camden township. About that time a number of settlers on the Talbot road discovered that the land on which they had settled and made some clearing had been previously deeded to other settlers. When the error was discovered the government made them grants of three hundred acres each on the Sydenham river in Camden township between Dawn Mills and Florence. The early settlers in this locality were John and William Tiffin, Job Hall, and a family named Bolton. There was still no settlement at Dawn Mills or Dresden. The nearest neighbours of these pioneers were the Cornwall and Sherman families near Thamesville and Lachlan McDougal who had located, near the spot where Wallaceburg now stands. The land was still a dense forest, as neither of these places had yet been surveyed. At this time the land on which Thamesville now stands was called Tecumseh, in honour of the Indian chief, and the early settlers near Florence, cleared, or brushed a path through the forest from Tecumseh to their farms on the Sydenham river.

The settlers were required to do some settlement duties, when these were completed the patent, or ownership of one hundred acres was given for the sum of twenty dollars.

In the year 1825, in early spring the schooner "Olive Branch" brought Gerald Lindsley, up the Sydenham from Chatham to settle on part of lot 4 concession 5 of Dawn Township, now the Gore of Camden. This lot is now the south eastern part of the Town of Dresden and Lindsley was the first settler. He built a log shanty at the east end of Lindsley street on the river bank near a fine spring which supplied him with plenty of good water. Later he built a log barn near his shanty. He began to make some clearing on his own property and raised vegetables and some grain sufficient for his own needs. His nearest neighbours were the Hall, Tiffin and Bolton families between where he was located and Florence, and his nearest neighbour to the west Lachlan McDougal who was located on the Sydenham river near the location of the present town of Wallaceburg. He entertained no idea of plotting a village on the property he owned, but his land increased in value because of the clearing he had made, and twenty years later the Lindsley farm was sold to D. R. Van Allen who was the real founder of the village of Dresden. Not long after Gerald Lindsley settled on the present site of Dresden a number of newcomers began to settle in the district. A Mr. Willoughby settled on lot three concession three and Weldon Harris located on a part of the same lot. A little later Joe Long took up land in Chatham Township on lot 21 concession 9, near the Base Line. Most of the settlers made small clearings on which they were able to raise

some grain, and as there were no available mills in the district they took their grists to Detroit by boat to get their grain made into flour.

Dawn Mills —

In the year 1830, two enterprising men William Taylor and James Smith, seeing the need of a mill in the district, located at Dawn mills and built a grist mill on the Sydenham river. It was called Dawn Mills because all the land to the Base Line was still in the township of Dawn. The settlers came to the mill in increased numbers and soon a store was established there to supply them with needed provisions. Charles Prangley was chief miller in the Taylor and Smith mill and a Mr. Baxter opened the store which was the first in the township. Later Mr. Taylor of the Taylor and Smith mill, became a partner in the Baxter store. The place soon became a meeting centre for settlers and a tavern and blacksmith shop located there. It appeared that the place would soon become an important trading centre, and it was for a time, but later when Dresden became settled the rapids on the river were found to be too much hindrance to traffic up to Dawn Mills and the trade was soon transferred to Dresden.

The banks of the Sydenham between Dawn Mills and the present site of Dresden did not become settled for some time after a considerable village was formed at Dawn Mills. The Sharpe family located on the south side of the river and a family named Traxler settled on the north side.

Up to the year 1834, Dawn, Camden and Zone Township were under the same municipal government. In 1835 Dawn Township which still included Camden Gore became a separate municipality. The records for that year show that there were in the township 3 frame houses, 2 grist mills, 4 saw mills, 288 horses, 264 oxen, 351 cows and 48 other cattle on which taxes were paid. The amount collected was £26 — 18S — Id from 85 persons who were tax payers at that time. The family names of the chief settlers were: Allen, Butler, Burwell, Brundage, Bolton, Boile, Bedford, Blakesley, Brown, Blackburn, Cyre, Collins, Crafts,

Covell, Crow, Chambers, Cleveland, Desmond, Drury, Edwards, Farslow, Granger, Gregg, Gillespie, Hall, Huston, Hannan, Harris, Howe, Holmes, Johnson, Laird, Langford, Long, Lepsecombe, Lutz, Lindsley, Mawlan, Morton, Mapes, Miller, Montgomery, McGregor, McLennan, O'Reilly, Page, Perry, Phelps, Proctor, Simmons, Scarlett, Slater, Snider, Smith, Sharp, Toles, Tiffin, Taylor, Vail, Ward, Williams, Willowby, Warin, Waller and Wilder. Most of these settlers were located at the southern part of the township and many of their descendants reside in the Dresden district at this time.

Chapter Two

THE BRITISH AMERICAN INSTITUTE

As early as 1828 some fugitive slaves from the United States had found their way into Canada, and settled along the south bank of the Sydenham in the township of Dawn. However it was not until after the arrival of Josiah Henson that any considerable number of coloured people located on the land south and west of the present site of Dresden. Henson came into Canada from Buffalo, in the year 1830. He worked for farmers for a few years, and because he had preached to his fellow slaves in the south he was encouraged to continue this work among other other refugees who had come into Canada. At that time his knowledge of the Bible was limited but he had an interesting way of talking to his listeners and he became a leader among them. He spoke forcibly about the evils of slavery,

and this with his earnest religious views gained him many friends. His chief concern was how best he could get himself and his followers on an independent standing with land and property of their own like the white settlers were doing, and he advised his people to work diligently to that end.

Henson worked some land in Essex County, near Colchester, for about seven years. While there he met Hiram Wilson a Congregational Missionary, to whom he told his story and his desires to obtain a fixed residence for destitute slaves. Wilson related the story to a Quaker friend James C. Fuller who was going to England. While in England Fuller raised thirteen hundred dollars and placed it in charge of Wilson and Henson. They called a conference of the

chief sympathizers, and it was decided to purchase land and establish an Institution where escaped slaves could be assisted and taught to maintain themselves. The land they decided to buy was lot three concession four in the Township of Dawn. Henson had saved some money while working for farmers and secured lot, two, concession four in the same township for himself. The price paid was four dollars per acre and a little later Henson sold the Institute one hundred acres of his lot at a slightly reduced price. They built a low long story-and-a-half log building not far from the present location of McVean's Hub and Spoke factory, in which refugee slaves were boarded and taught by Hiram Wilson, and later by Eli Birkland. The place was called the British American Institute, sometimes the Dawn Institute, and the land they owned and occupied was the greater part of the Southwestern part of Dresden from about Queen Street on the north, St. George Street and North Street on the east and extending back to the third concession of Dawn Township now Camden Gore.

Henson brought his wife and family to live on his own property in the year 1842. In order to help maintain the Institute, he made several trips to the United States and England where there were many anti-slavery sympathizers. He told his story to large audiences and collected considerable money which was badly needed in the early days of the Institute. While he was away his sons took

charge of his own farm and a manager had charge of the Institute. The progress of the Institute will be told later.

The next early settler on the site of Dresden, while it was still mostly forest was Abram Devens who located on part of lots four and five in the fifth concession of Dawn Township. This is the land north of the river and east of St. George Street. He built a log house on the high banks of the river from Metcalfe Ave. and Water Street which he cleared and raised a crop about the year 1849 or 1850. He settled on this land in the year 1844, about one year before the Van Allen family purchased the Lindsley property on which they plotted the Village of Dresden.

William Van Allen —

The land in the south of Dresden remained almost a virgin forest until the year 1846 when William Van Allen and his son Henry settled on it and began to clear it to make a farm. Progress was slow as there were still no roads, no bridge over the river and no other means of transportation other than the river. Soon after, Daniel R. Van Allen, another son of William Van Allen, an enterprising young man, came to the spot where his father and brother had settled and at once noticed that it would be a good location for a village. They had purchased the land from Gerald Lindsley, the earliest settler on the site, and had noticed that the surrounding district contained valuable timber and the river was easily navigable to that point, so they determined to plot the village. A civil engineer named D. McDonald gives a con-

cise historical sketch of the County of Kent, in which he states that D. R. Van Allen surveyed the south eastern part of Dresden into 63 lots. These lots were bounded by the river on the North and East Main Street on the south and St. George Street on the west. The survey was made in the year 1852. Some of the lots were soon taken up by incoming settlers and some were soon given to mechanics who agreed to settle on them. The village was not officially named Dresden when it was first plotted but it had been known by that name as early as 1839 when the people of the district gathered on the river bank a short distance west of the town site, to hold religious camp-meeting. These meetings were conducted in a high spirited religious manner and often lasted a whole week. They were attended by white and coloured people, and as there were no churches in the district they served the desires of the settlers in that early period.

About the time the survey was made the Van Allen's built a small log store on the river bank at the south east corner of Lindsley Street and Metcalfe Ave. Here they sold provisions, and beer and spirits to the settlers, and the place became known as Kerby's Tavern. It soon became an important meeting place for the men in the district and for prospectors who were coming to locate farms on which to settle. The Van Allens also built a large warehouse on the south side of the river a little east of the bridge. This building was soon after used for a store and was run by two men named Blackwood and Bax-

ter. It was in this building that the first Post Office was located and reliable records state that Mr. Blackwood was the first postmaster, although some records state that Mr. Baxter was the first to hold that office.

In the year 1854 the nucleus of another village was plotted directly south of the Van Allen property. This was done by William Wright, father of Josiah Wright, and Mrs. Stephen Sturgis. He was owner of lot three in the fifth concession which property was bounded on the north by Main Street, on the east by the river and on the south by a lane which is still known as Wright's Lane. The land along the river was quite well drained and he built his first abode, on Water Street between Main and Brock Streets. It resembled an Indian Wigwam, and a log cabin combined but it served the purpose for a time until he was able to build a better one. The second building he constructed was on the corner of Water and Sydenham Streets where he sold common necessities and drinks to the natives and timber workers who were getting more numerous in the district, and this place became well known as a house of entertainment as well as a grocery store. One of these buildings Mr. Wright rented to Josiah Henson who catered to all comers, and carried on a good business for some time. Mr. Wright laid out some lots on the south side of Main Street, and he named his village "Fairport". It was not long however until the first post office was established, and officially named Dresden, and the name Fairport was soon discarded.

It is interesting to note some of the early activities of the settlers in the surrounding district who were moving into the solid forest to make homes. One of the first things to undertake was building a shelter. In some cases an axe was the only implement available, and they went to work with this, cut down trees and piled the logs one on the other to make the walls of a log cabin. The eight hour day was not even dreamed of in that age, sunrise to sunset was their working period and visions of a farm and home of their own spurred them on. By working for earlier settlers they secured a team of oxen and with these brought their best logs to the nearest dumping ground on the banks of the river. A little later logging camps were established by enterprising men, in the thick woods, where men could live while they worked cutting down the forest. Working in these logging camps gave many of the early settlers funds to buy equipment needed on their own plots.

They early learned the art of making maple sugar and syrup and making their own soap with the aid of ashes obtained from the logs they burned. An old hand bill advertising an auction sale at a farm of J. L. Moss who lived a little north of Dresden in 1849, gives some idea of what effects the settlers accumulated. The items offered for sale were, all the ox-teams except Jumbo and Tricker, Tony and Terry. Two ox-carts, one 70 gallon soap kettle, 50 empty sugar-barrels, twenty gallons of apple brandy. One 40 gallon copper still, six head of fox hounds, and several other articles.

The bill also said, Sale begins at 8:00 a.m. Plenty to eat and drink.

In these days the license to sell beer and wine was not under the same strict restrictions as at the present time. The function of the tavern or house of entertainment, as it was then called was not just a place for drinking and carousing. Some of this took place no doubt, but it served a wider purpose. In the tavern the wayfarer found shelter for the night, when he was seeking a farm on which to settle. Here the settler found accommodation until he could make a modest shelter of his own, and here the men of the settlement met to discuss matters concerning the development of their homes and property. The Kerby House erected by the Van Allens and a little later the Fretz House conducted by Hosea Purdy on the corner of Lindsley Street and Metcalfe were much used for these useful purposes.

For some time after the village was plotted, there was not much growth. The roads leading into the village were still nothing more than winding paths through stumps and log piles. However the settlers became more numerous as time went on. In the south western part of the district there was a fair settlement of coloured people, and the need of a convenient trading centre became apparent to enterprising men.

Up to this time most of the settlers were getting their mail at Dawn Mills. A number of citizens under the leadership of the Van Allen family petitioned for a Post Office in the village. This was granted in the year 1854.

John Backwood was appointed Postmaster. The office was in his store near the present bridge, and the place was officially named Dresden by the post office authorities and with the approval of the Van Allens. The mail was brought in over rugged roads by the stage coach. There was still no bridge over the river, but a ferry boat was operated by Isaac Trerice, father of Alexander Trerice who later became an outstanding Dresden citizen. Business began to increase. A low log building had been erected on the site of the present post office, and this was made into a store and operated by men named Gilmore and Morton. One important addition followed another until in 1862 there was in the village one grist mill, two saw mills, four stores, a common school and a population of 350 people—a majority of whom were coloured. The school was a frame building and was located on the spot now occupied by the Fire Hall. Besides the above, taverns on the Wright and Van Allen property were doing a good business, and the settlers from all parts of the district were coming to Dresden in increased numbers for their supplies.

Timber - Main Revenue —

In tracing the development of the village it should be noted that the timber in the surrounding district was the main source of revenue for the settlers. Much of this timber was brought to the saw mills in the village, and a great deal was floated down the river on rafts to mills in other settlements. After disposing of their

timber the settlers took home from the village stores the necessary supplies, and generally visited the village taverns to get warm, - within and without, and thus a lively trade was soon established.

In clearing the land only the best logs were saleable. There were immense quantities that had to be burned to get them out of the way. In burning these logs a large amount of ashes was produced and even these ashes became a source of income for the settlers. Early in the history of the village an ashery was established on the bank of the river near the location of the Canning factory on Metcalfe Avenue. To this ashery the farmers sold their ashes and received a fair price. At the ashery the ashes were leached, and the lye boiled in huge kettles. When finished, the product looked like sugar. It was then put into barrels and shipped to Chatham. From there it was sent to England and Ireland and was used for bleaching linens and some of it was made into soda.

The village did not extend north of the river until about 1862, and as the settlers from the northern district were coming to the district in increasing numbers necessity for a bridge across the Sydenham became very apparent. Until 1864 all traffic across the river was by ferry. As stated before, the ferry was operated for some time by Isaac Trerice, father of Alexander Trerice who later became one of Dresden's outstanding early citizens. In 1864 the first bridge was built, a wooden structure, made very largely from

timbers from the surrounding district. It was financed by requiring each person who used the bridge to pay toll fees at the following rates. Wagon and 2 horses 10 cents; wagon and one horse 5 cents; a horse, mare, ass or mule three cents; an ox, steer or bull, cow or heifer, two cents; a hog, sheep or other animal one cent. These fees do not seem excessive to the present generation but to the early settlers they seemed high enough. This first wooden bridge began to show many weak spots about the year 1876 and the village council asked the county council for assistance to build a new wooden bridge. This was done in the year 1878. As there were now several boats going up and down the river and the turning ground was at the east end of the town both these wooden bridges were made to swing. The chief docks also were at the end of Main and Lindsley Streets. This was another important reason why the bridges were made to swing.

These bridges served the purpose for twenty-five years, and improved trade, as it became more convenient for the settlers in the northern district to get necessary supplies, and to find a ready market for the timber they had to sell as well as the produce from the land which was rapidly being cleared and cultivated.

The building of boats also became an important industry about this period. They were much needed to carry the cordwood and timber down the river to other markets where a fair price could be obtained and the building of the boats gave employment to the settlers in the village. The Byron

Trerice was built by Alexander Trerice and named after his son Byron. Other boats built here were the City of Dresden, The River King, The J. B. Newman, The Essex, The Watson, The Hiawatha and the Enterprise.

The bridge over the river, and the boats which carried the settlers of the village and district to Sarnia, Detroit and other important trading centres, brought many permanent settlers to the village and the population began to increase and more business places were established. C. P. Watson's store and dwelling was erected as early as 1859 on the corner of Main and St. George Streets, and Alex Watson had a store in the middle of the block near the location of the R. Aikin Store at present time. D. D. Williston kept a store on the river bank across the road from the Dresden Green House and George Webster, who was the second postmaster in the village kept the Post Office in a store on the location of the Canning factory at the east end of Queen St. A Mr. Clark conducted a grocery store on the east side of North Street near the spot where the North Kent Insurance Office is now located and George Adams, a wagon maker and blacksmith, ran a grocery store in what is now Kimmerly's blacksmith shop on the north side of Main Street. These stores were mostly frame buildings, but the foundation timbers were of good quality which accounts for some of these buildings being in use at the present time. The house built by Geo. Webster is a good example. It was built on the site of the cannery factory at the end of Queen Street.

It was purchased by Dr. Galbraith, moved to the west side of St. George Street where it was used as his office. Later it was moved to Hughes Street where it stands to-day a monument of the good work of the early mechanics. Another outstanding home stands at the east end of St. John Street on the river bank. D. R. Van Allen, the founder of the village lived in this house.

Dresden Businesses —

The surrounding district was becoming quite well settled as well as the village of Dresden, and this gave encouragement to enterprising men to open up business places to serve the increasing population. Martha and Sarah Burkett opened a grocery store on the south side of the bridge, where Glen Wicks' store is now located. Mrs. Horning had a small store on the lot in the centre of the block between St. John and Lindsley Streets, on St. George St. W. H. Gurley conducted a store on the corner of St. John and St. George Streets, and Joseph Hazlett had a general store between Queen and Brown Streets on the west side of St. George St. Michael Mooney also had a store in the same block. On the south side of Brown St. Redford Kimmerly and Robert Aikin opened a dry-goods store. They moved afterwards to the south side of Main Street. Killam's store was located where Wilmott's gas station now stands at the corner of St. George and Metcalfe Ave., and J. L. Leonards store was on St. George Street east between Queen and Main. Earlier he kept a store on the north side of Brown Street between

St. George and Centre Streets. A Mr. Davies carried on a tailor shop on St. George Street and George Francis was also in the same business on the North side of Main Street.

Most of these stores were frame buildings as lumber was very cheap. Many have been moved to other locations or destroyed by fires. In the early days of the village bucket brigades were the only fire protection available, and water from the wells the only source of supply.

In this period the names of a number of men who played important parts in the early development of the village came into the picture. Dr. Galbraith, who served the village and district for many years, was one of the best known and highly respected gentlemen in the community. In the early days his office was on the Metcalfe Avenue, then he moved it to St. George Street where he practiced until his death. In the later years of his life he drove a team of spotted ponies to visit his patients, and when the neighbours saw this team in the district they felt the best possible aid for the sick had been secured. He was a staunch Liberal in politics, but was the trusted physician of both political parties.

T. R. McInnis was Reeve of the village in the year 1874, but he gave up this office before the end of the year and moved to British Columbia. Later in his life he became Lieutenant Governor of that province. He had two clever sons, born in Dresden, who became very prominent men in British Columbia. It is reported that while still living in Dresden, Th-

HISTORY OF DRESDEN

ed, another two room frame school was built on the same ground just south of the brick school. These two buildings served the village until the present school was erected. Mr. G. A. Miller was one of the outstanding Principals in this school. He is best remembered by his former pupils for a saying that he often made when he caught pupils breaking the rules. That saying was, "Willie, just step into my room". All the pupils knew what that meant.

The old Town Hall was built in the year 1874 on the spot now occupied by the Band Shell on the Market Square. It was a two-storey structure with a Concert Hall and Stage on the upper story, and the ground floor was used for a market place, with a jail in the east end corner. There was a tower containing a bell donated by the Van Allen family which rose above the hall at the east end of the building. The lower part of the building was divided into stalls and these were rented to parties having produce to sell. Farmers from the district brought cattle and horses for sale and these were displayed on the grounds west of the hall. On market days it was a busy place and a market clerk was appointed to collect fees from all who had produce for sale. A hotel was early established on the south east corner of the square. This was moved to St. George St. when the market was closed down, which happened when the stores increased on St. George St. The upper part of the hall was frequently used for entertainments of all kinds and the big bell rang at noon and other times of impor-

tance. It could be plainly heard for at least five miles in the country.

In the year 1870 there was little North Dresden. Mr. Carter's house was the first to be built and a Mr. Windover built a store which was burned in the same year. Soon after Alex Cuthbert opened a grocery store on the west side of St. George St. and a little later he moved and opened a harness making establishment just north of the school and carried on this business for many years. George Fox Sr., father of George J. Fox, opened up a brick yard on his property on the north side of the river about a quarter of a mile west of the bridge. Mr. Fox was soon producing from 5 to 6 thousand bricks per annum. About 1873 a man named David McCane also operated a brick yard on lot 5 concession 4 which was later carried on by Geo. and Alex Rice for several years. This supply of bricks furnished the material from which many of the fine homes and business places were constructed about this time. The building of the school in North Dresden and the opening of the Green Mountain Hotel by a man named Wm. Copper at the north west corner of the bridge was soon followed by a fine grocery store opened at first by R. P. Wright, and later run by Alex and Joseph Tassie. The settlers in the surrounding district were still bringing in immense numbers of logs and the banks of the river west of the Green Mountain were usually crammed with valuable timber to be taken down the river on boats or rafts in the spring. The lumber

yard and planing mill later run by Laird Bros. was then run by John and Oscar French.

In 1873 the village council purchased the present Dresden Cemetery, and forbid any further burials in the old cemetery which was located on North Street near the corner of Brock St., just north of the present United Church.

The remains of many of the old residents were removed to the new cemetery. At this time Trerice Street was opened up and named in honour of Alex Trerice. It was needed as a convenient entrance to the new cemetery.

South West Dresden —

The sale of the British American Institute Lands opened up to the south west portion of Dresden to all classes of settlers and many prominent citizens who played important parts in the development of the village, secured part of this land and planned places of business and homes for themselves and families.

From a copy of the voters list of the village of Dresden for the year 1877 we note that a large number of the early citizens secured land that formerly formed the British American Institute. Brown Street, Robinson and Hughes streets were opened up. Robert Aikin had property on Brown Street and Hugh Curie owned the west half of the block D on Hughes Street. I. N. Carscallen and his two brothers secured the south east corner of Brown St., and Rev. Thomas Hughes owned lots on the same street. Alfred H. Hughes and Horatia Hughes are listed as owners of property

on the British American Institute (B. A. I.) and James H. Johnson owned property on Brown Street. James Fleming who built the flour mill on Queen and Centre Streets is listed as owner of lot 12, Block M of the B. A. I. and J. L. H. Leonard is shown as owner of lot 4 on Brown Street. J. E. McGloglon had part of lot C of the B. A. I. lands and both Wm. T. Prangley and Asa Rubble owned property on Hughes St. J. W. Sharpe, the lawyer, and W. H. Sevetzer are on the list as owners of property on Hughes St., and James Stephens and Alexander Trerice assessed as owners of lots formally the Institute lands. The above named property owners are only a few of the citizens who availed themselves of lots that the Institute Trustees sold for a total of \$40,000.

On the south side of the river many important establishments were being built. In 1874 Alexander McVean, father of Sandy, Osgood, James, William and John took over the Hub and Spoke Factory at the west end of Hughes St., and this has given steady employment to many men until the present time. Besides this there were two stave mills in operation; the woollen mills on Metcalfe Ave., a little east of the bridge; and three grist mills. The foundry at the south west corner of the bridge was early operated by Wm. H. Clapp, father of Dr. Walter Clapp. A modest wagon and carriage shop, run by Alex Trerice was also doing business. There was still no other means of transportation but by means of the stage coach and the river.

Many men were engaged on the boats taking out the timber and other products of the district, and bringing in the necessary supplies.

Besides these industries many fine business places were building up along St. George Street. About 1872 R. P. Wright opened up a grocery store at the north west corner of Brown and St. George Streets, and the Carscallen Bros., N. N. B. and J. B. erected the fine hardware store on the south corner of the same streets. The Shaw Hotel on the present Post Office location was doing a fine business. One of its rooms was used as the meeting place for the village council. The Watson block on the south side of Main Street contained C. P. Watson's grocery, Kimmerly and Aikins, dry goods merchants in full operation, and W. H. Switzer grocery on St. Geo. St. Location of some early industries were as follows: Harry Gages blacksmith shop, in north Dresden, west side of St. George St. between Camden and Trerice Sts.; Alex Trerices Wagon Shop, east side of St. George Street, between Main and Brock Streets. Ed Huston and I. B. Websters Stove mill, river bank near west end of Queen and Lindsley Streets; Craig and Howard saw mill (later run by Alex Trerice) east end of Main Street. Pat Gilroy's blacksmith shop later run by Neil Munn, south corner of Brown and Centre Sts.; Peter Kitchen's Ashery on the river bank near the east end of Lindsley St.; Trerice's Lime Kiln, south side of the river just west of the bridge; I. B. Websters Tannery, river bank, the east end of Brock St.; Wm. Rudds Carriage

Shop, North St. between Robinson and Hughes Sts.; Smith's Woolen Mills south of the river, just east of the bridge; Flax Mill erected about 1901 by T. F. Hinnegan, later run by Dick Burns; Flour Mill run by Alex McVean, later run by Sandy McVean; Flemings Flour Mill on the corner of Queen and Centre Sts.; Foundry and Machine Shop, run by the father of Dr. Walter Clapp, later by Thomas King; O. & W. McVean Hub and Spoke factory, established by McVean and Currie later run by Wm. and O. Mc Vean; Alex Cuthberts Harness Shop on St. George St. on the north corner of Trerice St. Many boats were built at this location on the south side of the river near the west end of St. John St.; Lumber yard and Planing mill run by John and Oscar French, later by Laird Bros. north of the river, Camden St.; and John Gordon's stove mill, first owned by William Wright.

The village council in 1874 was confronted with no easy task. The streets were poorly drained, there were only patches of sidewalks and very few street lights. Alex Trerice was the Reeve, and Asa Rubble, John French, W. L. Smith and I. W. Davis were the councillors. The tax rate for that year was 9 mills on the dollar and this gave them very little funds to meet the requests that were made on them. The licensee paid by the three liquor stores of \$500 each and 6 hotels at \$45.00 each, gave the council help, and it attempted some important improvements. They authorized the grading of St. George St. at a cost of \$1725 and bought plank

sidewalks in the busiest parts of the village. As evidence of the careful manner in which village funds were spent I quote the salaries of the officers for that year: clerk, \$100, treasurer, \$30, assessor \$40., collector \$25, licence inspector \$5, auditors \$5 each, Health Commissioner and Inspector of Chimneys \$10. However, as the population increased quite fast, it was not long before more public funds were available to make the needed improvements in the village. In this year the Town Hall was built at the cost of \$8, 300. but the funds for this purpose were raised by issuing debentures payment of which was distributed over a number of years. In the year 1875 number three division court was established in Dresden. S. W. Wallace was clerk of the Court, and John Fretz was the village constable.

The social life of the inhabitants of the village at his time was quite different from that of the present generation, but the people devised means of entertainment that gave them much enjoyment. Moving pictures, radio programs and automobiles were unknown but other forms of amusement gave the citizens equal pleasure. Hunting and fishing were both enjoyable and profitable, as there was plenty of game in the woods and the Sydenham was teeming with fine fish. Boat riding and trips on the river to Walpole Island and Detroit were often taken and dancing parties on the boats planned. Social gatherings in the churches where amateur concerts and plays were held, and spirited debates in the young peoples

societies provided many interesting evenings. Travelling shows were more frequent in those days, and after the building of the Town Hall in 1874, and Shaw's opera house which was located over the present Foster's Creamery there was plenty of entertainment along that line. The play Uncle Tom's Cabin was one of the shows presented here. With six hotels and three billiard halls in full swing one can easily picture that much time was spent in these places as these beverages were then reasonable in price. We cannot say that these gatherings in the hotels and other places always ended in a peaceful manner but troubles started there were usually forgotten in the morning. In the winter months, sleigh-riding was one of the chief recreations. Groups of young folks would fill the wagon-boxes to their greatest capacity, and the ringing of the sleighbells and happy laughter of the crowd made an enjoyable scene. Away they would go to some friends home for an oyster supper or to dance till the wee small hours of the morning.

As early as 1854 the first train went through Thanesville, Chatham and on to Windsor. This was on the Great Western Railways as the C.N.R. was then called and it was greeted joyfully by the settlers in Kent County. Soon after this passenger and mail stage coaches ran from Dresden to Thanesville and Chatham. This system was used for about 29 years before the train came through Dresden.

In the year 1876 the promoters of the Erie and Huron Railways

asked a bonus of \$25,000 to build a railway through Dresden. It was first proposed to go north through Oil Springs and Petrolia, but the township of Dawn refused to make a grant and the building of the road was delayed. Dresden wisely withheld the grant until the road was well under construction. After a long delay and failure to get grants from the northern municipalities the promoters changed their plans and decided to go west from Dresden through Wallaceburg. A new proposition was made to Dresden asking a bonus of \$18,000 and this was approved by the Dresden ratepayers. Alex Trerice and Asa Rubble were among the chief promoters of the railroad and they worked diligently to get it constructed. The grant was withheld until the year 1883 when the road was well under construction. C. Livingston was then mayor and R. P. Wright was the reeve when the bonus was turned over to the company. It was late in 1883 when the first train reached Dresden but it was a welcome sight for the citizens. The station at first was on the Spur, where it reaches Water St., but when the direction of the road was changed, it was located a little south of the town on the east side of the road. Later, it was moved to its present position on the west side of the fourth concession line. The two railway engines used on the new road were somewhat old models and were nicknamed by the Dresden citizens; "Jack the Ripper" after the notorious bandit of that period, and "John the Baptist" because it had to stop at every station for

water. In spite of the crudeness of the road and the equipment the people patronized the railroad frequently. The Dresden merchants began to complain that it was taking the trade to other centres, and several boats operating on the Sydenham River, were forced to adopt other routes instead of coming into Dresden.

Fast Growth —

The period from 1872 to 1882 was undoubtedly the fastest growing period of Dresden's history, as the population of 2,080 at the end of 1882 has not been exceeded to any considerable extent. Prominent among the citizens were Alex Trerice, reeve of the village for five out of ten years. He was appointed Mayor when the town was incorporated. Alex Watson, brother of C. P. Watson, was reeve for two years, and T. R. McInnes reeve for one year. Each served the village faithfully and did everything reasonable to assist its growth. The tax early exceeded ten mills, and since the town hall and the first brick school house were being paid for out of this sum, it is evident that they were very economical with all other expenditures.

Besides these gentlemen who acted as reeve, there were many other prominent citizens who assisted materially in developing the village as it grew to be a town. Many of these like C. P. Watson, the Carscallen Brothers, R. P. Wright and Alex McVean have already been mentioned. There were several other capable men whose services to the village were of real value to the community. The McVean family — Sandy,

Osgood, James, John and William were growing up and were early established in business. Sandy had charge of the flour mill at the bridge as early as 1876. The ability of Robert Aikin was much in evidence. He acted as assessor for several years and was auditor of the village accounts, as well as taking his part in the dry goods business which he was conducting. J. W. Sharpe lawyer and private banker gave considerable service to the village although the failure of his private bank was a serious blow to some business men. John Turner, father of John Jr. and Roy, was for some time collector of taxes and James Stephens, fat-

her of Charles and Mary Stephens, ran a private bank. When reeve Dr. H. E. Winters died in 1880, James Stephens was elected to the reeveship. James Blackburn, grandfather of Alex Blackburn our present Justice of the Peace, was in business with C. P. Watson for eight years, he acted as assessor, and was the village Magistrate for some time before he went back to the farm about 1883. D. J. Huff was the village constable about this time. His salary was \$36 per year. Most of the above gentlemen were building good homes in the village which assisted greatly in its growth and development.

Chapter Four

DRESDEN PROCLAIMED A TOWN

In the year 1881 the population of the village was found to be over 2,000 persons and on the 8th day of March the village was proclaimed a town. For the remainder of the year Mr. Redford Kimmery was reeve and in the council were Messrs. R. P. Wright, I. B. Webster, Jacob Killam and Mr. Carscallen. Robert Aikin was assessor in 1881 and in that same year the town was divided into three wards, North, Centre and South for election purposes.

The first Mayor elected after the village became a town was Alex Trerice, a man who had been Reeve of the village for several years. He came to the settlement when there were very few settlers and he had assisted in developing several of the industries in the

village. He married Elizabeth Wright, daughter of Wm. Wright who plotted Fairport. His council in 1882 was James Stephens, Reeve and councillors, Wright, Cuthbert, Rudd, McGloghon, Livingston, Switzer, Carscallen and Weston. All these gentlemen had been prominent citizens as the village grew to be a town. Trerice was elected Mayor again in 1887, but his wife died in 1885 and as many others were doing at that time, he felt there were great opportunities in the Northwest. He went there in 1891. He died out west in 1901 and his remains were brought back to Dresden for burial.

About the time the village was incorporated as a town a number

of substantial brick buildings were being constructed. The Clifford House, a fine brick hotel was erected on the spot where the Shaw Hotel stood. The Shaw Hotel was a frame structure and in line with it on the east side of St. George St. was the old Union Block, a row of frame buildings between the Main and Queen Sts. J. E. McGloghlon conducted a watch and clock repair shop in one section, W. H. Switzer began a drug store in another, before he started business on the west side of the same street. The fine brick Oddfellows Block was also erected about this time, and Mr. E. Miller soon opened up a fine drug store in this block. James and John McVean were early established in a fine hardware store just south of the Miller drug store and in the year 1884 The Wescott house was built by Mr. A. Wescott. Bricks at this time were selling at around \$4 a thousand which accounts for the large number of brick structures. Besides these business places there were other industries taking shape. The Smith Woolen Mills was manufacturing tweeds, flannels, shirting etc. and the Rudd carriage shop on the site now used as a lawn bowling green was beginning operations. Tom King was operating the foundry and machine shop at the south west corner of the bridge and the O. & W. McVean Hub and Spoke factory at the West end of Hughes street was running full blast.

A large part of the old Union block was later destroyed by fire about 1918 and has since been replaced by substantial brick buildings.

The Rebellion of 1837, and later the Fenian Raids of 1866 and 1870, had demonstrated to the authorities that a military force was necessary to protect the country from invaders as well as preserving the peace in our own land. Companies of Volunteers were recruited in several places, and Kent County was not slow to do its part to meet the "Bashi Bazouks" as the raiders were called. The 24th Kent Regiment was formed with Lieutenant Colonel Baxter in charge. It was composed of six companies formed in various parts of the county. Number Six Company was formed in Dresden with W. H. Hughes as Captain. The Drill Shed was moved from Dawn Mills where it had been built and used in earlier days, and was placed on the west side of the Market Square. The land on which it was located was purchased from Alex Trerice, who had secured it when the British American Institute lands were sold. The Company met regularly for training for some time, and many of Dresden's young men were promoted to higher rank in the Kent Battalion. Soon all danger of raids became more remote and the Dresden Company passed out of the records. Some records show that Wm. Bolton who lived in Chatham Gore was a Captain in No. 6 Company of the Kent Regiment while it was in Dresden.

The Drill Shed was used for various purposes and the Council paid several bills to keep it in repair. When the Agriculture Fair was started in Dresden, the shed was used on the Market Square

to exhibit fruits, vegetables and other such exhibits.

In the early days of the growth of the village a frame school was built on the corner of Brock and Tecumseh Sts. This was used by the coloured children after the British American Institute School had been pulled down. The Manager of the Institute had promised to build a new one but he did not do so, and when the Institute lands were sold, this school on Brock St. was built. About the year 1886 this school was destroyed by fire, and the coloured children went to school in the Town Hall. It was not long after this when arrangements were made to have white and coloured children attend the same school.

Town's Lighting System —

Before the establishing of electric lights, the town had a very poor lighting system. It was in 1879 that the first street lamps of any kind were installed. In that year the council agreed to furnish street lamps on the bridge provided the people living nearby would light them. Three months later the council provided six new lamps to be placed on busy corners, and a lamp lighter was employed. Every evening the lamp lighter came around with his step ladder and other necessary supplies, and trimmed the lamps and cleaned the glass and hurried on to the next lamp post. It appears that the lamp lighter was not always prompt to light up the village for in July 1880 the Council threatened to dismiss him unless he was more attentive to his duties.

In the year 1888 when the lamp lighter was still going his rounds, George Cragg and seventy-two other rate payers, petitioned the council to install electric lights. The tax rate was then 22 mills on the dollar and the council thought it wise to go carefully and refused the request, promising to give it further consideration. William F. Jamieson had learned the electrical business by taking a correspondence course, and he established a plant of his own in Dresden. In 1889 he asked permission of the Council to erect poles on the streets for electric lights. This was granted and in the same year the council made agreement with him to light some of the streets by electricity. The cost for street lighting was ten cents per night per light, and the rate for inside lighting was just as reasonable. He was assisted by Wm. A. Johnston, and later by Bert Courtney. In the year 1901, the town decided to purchase the electric light plant and they engaged Wm. J. Jamieson to run it. They paid ten thousand dollars for the outfit and used this plant until 1908 when Hydro Electric power was brought into Dresden. While the old plant was in use the citizens kept candles and lamps on hand because the lights were turned off promptly at eleven o'clock, excepting on Saturday nights when they operated an extra hour. The new hydro system was run efficiently for several years by Mr. Charles Eberlee, later by Mr. E. Kyle, the present clerk of the town, and is now in charge of Mr. C. W. King, a capable electrician.

As early as 1886 the Reeve of Dresden was requested by the council to ask the county council to have Dresden made the centre of a High School District. The population of the town at this time was over two thousand and the schools were becoming well filled. D. G. Huff was the Reeve in that year, but owing to the difficulties of poor roads and transportation the county council did not grant the request.

In the year 1883 John Chapple, the popular clerk of the town was appointed to the office of Chief Magistrate and filled the office efficiently until about ten years later when he was forced to relinquish the office on account of illness. He was also unable to fill the office of clerk for the same reason and Arthur Smith was appointed clerk pro tem in 1893.

In 1884 Noah Waffle was Chief Constable of the town and held the position until 1886 when Ed Gonyou was appointed at a salary of \$364 per year. Gonyou held the position until 1907 when he resigned and John Robinson was appointed. Robinson held the position until 1912 when John Jackson was appointed to take the position.

In the year 1902 when Asa Ribble was Mayor, a by-law was passed giving the Canning factory a bonus of \$5,000. This was the Canning Factory now located on Metcalfe Ave. It was managed successfully for several years by Mr. E. A. Wall, father of Mrs. Morley McKay, and afterwards by Arthur Jeffreys.

In 1903 the old plank sidewalks and crossings began to disappear and were being replaced by

new granolithic walks, thus marking a step forward in the development of the town. These walks were made by the Town, the cost being paid by the owners of the property along which they were built. The property owners petitioned the council to construct these walks, and paid for them in a stated number of years.

The prominent place now occupied by the Bank of Commerce on the corner of Main and North Streets was formerly a private bank operated by Dresden's first lawyer, J. W. Sharpe. He was one of Dresden's early citizens and served the town as Mayor for several years. The bank failed under his management and several of the early merchants lost heavily on account of this failure of the bank. Later the bank was taken over by the bank of London. Near the close of the last century the bank was taken over by the Bank of Commerce, and the present building was constructed. Miss Ada Miller served in this bank for a great many years as chief clerk and was always regarded as a capable officer. At the present time the bank has a larger staff than in previous years which indicates that the volume of business is increasing.

The present Dominion Bank was first a private bank operated by two citizens, named Fawcett and Livingstone. Mr. Livingstone was Mayor of the town in 1883 and lived in the home now owned by Geo. Lawrence on Hughes St. This private bank also failed, and the building was taken over in 1885 by Dr. Bullis, a graduate of the Royal College of Physicians

and Surgeons at Kingston. A little later Dr. J. I. Wiley a graduate of Trinity Medical College, Toronto, went into the office with Dr. Bullis. Later, Dr. Bullis left town and Dr. Wiley's brother, also a physician, went into partnership with his brother. When Dr. J. I. Wiley built his home on the opposite corner, he moved the office to his home. Eventually the Dominion Bank opened up. E. W. Slought, the present manager had held the position for at least 25 years, a record not often exceeded.

Religious Development —

The churches of the growing village played an important part in the religious and social life of the people. As early as 1839 when the site of Dresden was still a dense forest, the settlers from the surrounding district met on the south side of the river Sydenham, a little west of the present town site, where they held religious camp meetings.

The visitors carried tents with them and erected temporary shelters on the camping ground and carried on revival meetings for several days. This place they called the Dresden camp grounds long before Dresden was officially named.

The first Church built on the site of Dresden, mentioned in official records was a small Congregational church erected a little above the village of Fairport about the year 1855. The Rev. Wm. Clark was the Pastor and it served the purpose of the early settlers until other churches were built.

Soon after this the Methodist

Episcopal Church was built on North St. about midway between Main and Brock Sts. The Church cemetery was south of the church and the ministers residence north of it. It was a small frame church but was attended by many of the leading citizens of the village.

There was also a Wesleyan Methodist, in North Dresden, on St. George St. on the corner of Trerice St. opposite the present school. This also was a frame church and was supported by the residents of North Dresden.

In addition there was the Primitive Methodist Church located one block west of the Anglican Church on the corner of Queen and Centre streets. This church is now the property of the B. M. E. church congregation. It was closed for a time but has been recently opened. The Rev. Francis R. Legge is the present pastor. The original B. M. E. church was on the corner of Centre and Lindsey Sts., where the present sales barn is now located. It was one of the earliest churches established in the village.

In 1884 these three Methodist Churches were united under one name, the Methodist Church and after a few months all three Dresden congregations joined and attended worship in the present United Church. The ministers at that time were, Primitive Methodist - Rev. McCutcheon, Wesleyan Methodist - Rev. E. Loundsbury and Methodist Episcopal Rev. R. P. Fryer.

Previous to the union, the B. M. E. Church congregation increased considerably and they decided to build a new church. In the year 1877 they built the church

HISTORY OF DRESDEN

on the corner of North and Brock Sts., now known as the United Church of Canada. In the year 1888 after the union of the three churches, the capacity of the church was improved by extending the gallery to provide more seating. In 1925 a nation wide movement took place to unite the Presbyterian Church, the Congregational Church and the Methodist into one body. The Dresden Methodist Church joined this organization and its name was then changed to the Dresden United Church. The members and active workers of this fine church are deserving of special commendation for the splendid service this church has given to the community. It is not easy to name all the families who have been especially active in assisting with the work as unfortunately the early records have not been preserved. Among the leaders of the more recent years the Robert Aikin family has given outstanding service. Chas. Aikin has led the choir for at least 45 years, and his sister Eva presided at the organ for around 35 years. Mr. and Mrs. C. Carster also rendered valuable service in several departments of the church and H. J. French served as Superintendent of the Sunday School for over 25 years. The R. P. Wright family, the Carscallen and Jeff families and the family of Wm. Rudd have always been faithful supporters and M. C. A. Humphrey rendered years of service as a member of the Choir and treasurer of the Church maintenance funds. Mr. and Mrs. I. B. Webster were always staunch supporters of this church and their descendants are at present faithful and liberal members. Mr.

and Mrs. R. R. Dusten and family have always been valued members. The beautiful flag and honor roll was placed in the church by them in remembrance of their beloved son Roy, one of the many fine boys who did not return after World War II. The Elgy Robinson family also have given important service in the church and Mr. and Mrs. John Kerr and family have always shown a high standard of loyalty wherever help was needed. Wm. Ward the town jeweller for many years was a constant reliable helper in any work of the church that a layman could do. The above is only a few of the untiring leaders, but the rank and file have played their parts equally as well in carrying on the work of Our Great Master.

Another outstanding family who has loyally supported and assisted in carrying on the work in the United Church, is that of Mr. and Mrs. George E. Clark. Mr. Clark himself a prominent builder and contractor has assisted materially in all the important additions, and changes made in the church building, including the recent addition made to the church at the north east corner, which was constructed by Mr. Clark and donated to the Church. He provided sufficient hymn books for the whole church, and beautiful altar drapes for the pulpit and table. Mrs. Clark has been an efficient helper in all the women's organizations of the church, and a reliable helper in all charitable undertakings of any of these societies.

The Church has assisted mater-

HISTORY OF DRESDEN

ially in developing a number of outstanding men in church and other life activities. Among them is the Rev. Charles Carscallen, son of I. N. Carscallen, one of the earliest supporters of the church. Rev. Charles spent about 20 years as a missionary in China, and for several years after coming home he was head of a training college in Whitby, Ontario. Another young man who was a faithful adherent of the church and assisted in the choir for several years was Mr. Bruce Wallen. He left Dresden early in the 19th Century and went to Western Canada where he carried on a successful dry-goods business. He died about 1945, but he had not forgotten the church of his younger days, and in his will he donated the sum of \$1,000 to be used by the officials of the church for its improvement.

About the year 1852 St. Joseph's Church in Chatham was established there as a Catholic Centre for the whole of the county of Kent. It was the custom for the Priest in charge to visit various homes, or stations as they were called and celebrate mass. The first mass in the Dresden district of which there is any available record was celebrated in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ennett, on the Lindsay Road near Turnerville in Chatham Township. This practice continued until the year 1872 when the original frame church on the corner of Brock and Tecumseh Sts. was built. It was dedicated on the Feast of the Archangel St. Michael in September 1872 and named St. Michael's Church. Rev. Father Marshall of Chatham was in charge. The

Dresden Church remained as a mission church with Chatham until 1878 when it was attached to Wallaceburg. In the year 1927 the late Bishop Fallon established St. Michael's Church Dresden as a separate parish and appointed Father Thomas J. Ford as the first pastor. In 1933 he was succeeded by Rev. Father Pettypiece who remained until 1937 when he was succeeded by Rev. Father A. N. Page the present Pastor. In 1904 the original frame church was rebuilt, brick veneered and a combined sacristy and winter chapel added. It was by the constant devoted assistance of many of the ardent supporters of St. Michael's Church that the church has been enabled to exert so wide an influence for good in the community. It is not easy to name them all, but families like the Ennett's the Burns family, the Mahoney's the O'Neils, and Mr. and Mrs. William Bear and family will long be remembered for their faithfulness and devotion. Mrs. Leota McDuffe's service of 30 years as organist of the church will not easily be forgotten.

The Roman Catholic Church in Dresden also merits credit for the early training and religious direction of the Rt. Rev. Msgr. A. P. Mahoney, P. A. Vicar General of the diocese and Superior of St. Peter's Seminary. He is the son of the late Michael and Mary Mahoney who came to Dresden in 1888 and lived on Hughes St. His father was an energetic citizen who engaged in the lumber business, then for fifteen years he bought and sold cattle. He owned a farm of 430 acres, and many of

the cattle he handled were raised on his own estate. The mother, Mary Mahoney was a devout Christian, with unflinching allegiance to the Roman Catholic Church. Under her affectionate guidance her son Parnell was directed from the service of altar boy to the Priesthood, and the young man himself filled with the Christian ideals of his mother, has gone forward to attain his present high standing.

Several other staunch members of the Roman Catholic Church are worthy of special mention for their generous donations to assist the church. The Statue of the Sacred Heart and candle sticks was donated by Catherine Ennett. The Statue of the Blessed Virgin by Richard Ennett and the Statue of St. Joseph by Henry Ennett. Stations of the cross and the Chalice was donated by Catherine Mahoney, and the beautiful sanctuary lamp by Mary and Ellen Burns.

Other devoted members who have rendered outstanding service are: Mrs. Harry Daniels; Miss Irene Burns; the late Mrs. Robt. Campbell; Mrs. Jim Sullivan and Mrs. Harry Ennett. Mrs. Joseph Shannon, Mr. Basil Burns, Harry Pels and Ernest Phaneuf, have all given great assistance in the work of the Holy Name Society.

After the emancipation of the slaves in the British Colonies, the missionary spirit in the Anglican Church in England was very much aroused in favour of establishing mission churches in Canada especially in the districts where former slaves from the United States had located. This movement led

to the building of the Anglican Church in Dresden, on the corner of St. George and Queen Street in the year 1867. The location chosen was close to the British American Institute lands where former slaves resided and many of them attended this church. The first Pastor was the Rev. Thomas Hughes, a highly esteemed gentleman whose name is perpetuated by naming one of Dresden's prominent residential streets in his honor. Some of the families who attended this church were the Henson's, the Highgates, the Proctors and the Solomons. However there were two other churches in Dresden at which the coloured people were attending and they gradually drifted away from the Anglican Church to a form of service which they had been more accustomed to in the south. There were several English families in the town and district who attended this church and soon there was a good congregation. The Rev. Thomas Hughes retired in 1876. His salary \$700 per annum was sent from England for some years but the Church soon became self-supporting.

The North Dresden Baptist Church was established early in the development of the village. That part of the place now known as North Dresden was starting to build up when the congregation of this church was organized in 1872. The leaders were busy and energetic men and by 1874 the church was built and ready for services. The first Pastor was the Rev. M. P. Campbell and the first clerk of the church was Jacob Killam. Mrs. Lucy Warner was the first

treasurer and the trustees were: James Blackburn, Benjamin Hillis, R. J. Colville, A. L. Grover, D. A. Shaw, J. Killam and Richard Brewer. Other strong supporters of the Church at this time were Mrs. Jane Rice, mother of George and Sandy Rice, and Nancy Blackburn mother of James Blackburn.

It was in the year 1876 that the Presbyterian Church built in North Dresden on land now forming the present school grounds. The land was donated by Robert Whitson who then owned all the land as far north as five sideroad. The church was reached by means of the lane that is on the south side of the school grounds. The leading families in the congregation at this time were the McDonalds and the James McConnell family. The first ordained minister Rev. Thomas Talloch was inducted in the year 1881 and the board of managers were Wm. Colville, president; T. B. Anderson, secretary; Charles Tassie, treasurer; Messrs. John Slater, Milton Lent and George Marr. The Rev. R. M. Croll, was inducted minister. In the year 1895 the church was moved across the river to its present site on St. George St. and finished in its own present neat appearance. The church hall attached to the south side of the church was not built until 1927 at a cost of \$5027.

In 1895 the Rev. Croll resigned and Rev. T. B. McCullough was inducted minister. He held the position for 16 years and was greatly esteemed by the congregation. The annual report of 1900 shows that the church had 108

members. The choir leader was Thomas King and Miss Switzer was the organist. The Sunday School superintendent was Mr. Thomas Laird and James Love was the assistant. The board of managers were Dr. J. L. Wiley, chairman; S. Shaw, secretary; Charles Tassie treasurer; and Messrs. James McVean, Dr. H. S. McDonald, W. H. Switzer, Sandy McVean, John Stott and Alex Cuthbert.

In the year 1915 Rev. Norman Lindsay accepted a call to Dover Centre Church and Rev. Dr. C. A. McCrae became the minister. He served the congregation faithfully for five years, when the Rev. R. G. McKay was inducted.

In the year 1925 the question of the union of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational Churches was being considered. The Dresden Presbyterian church congregation voted on the question and the result was 11 for the union and 90 against. In the same year 1925 Rev. Mr. McKay accepted a call to another church and Rev. G. G. Treanor became the church minister. Rutherford Presbyterian Church was added to the Dresden Charge in the same year. Dr. Treanor resigned in 1934 and the position was accepted by the Rev. F.R. Anderson. It is difficult to name all the staunch supporters of the church, but the Cuthberts, the Lairds, Slatters, Tassies, Wileys and McVeans are outstanding. When Wm. McVean died in 1938 the church lost a true friend and when Sandy passed on he was missed by all.

HISTORY OF DRESDEN

While the Queen Street Baptist Church dates its foundation from the year 1857, it is known that a Baptist congregation existed among the coloured people in and around Dresden as early as 1850. In that year Rev. Wm. Newman represented the Dresden Congregation at the Amherstburg Association of Baptist Churches. It is also known that prior to the year 1857 meetings were held in a little cabin on the British American Institute lands. The first record of the Dresden Church is in the Amherstburg Association minutes of 1857. Rev. W. P. Newman was the Pastor and he told of the church having been built and asked all possible assistance of the association to help pay for it. Some of the Charter members were brothers; Bow, George Johnson, Thomson, Matt Richardson, Geo. Day, Jonah Wilson, Louis Cunningham, Wheeler, Stephen Griffin and many others. In 1858 Rev. S. H. Davis was the Pastor. He was the grandfather of Rev. H. L. Talbot who recently was Pastor of the Dresden Church. Some still living who served for over sixty years, when this record was written, are Elizabeth Richardson, Jane Thompson Otis, Sarah Talbot and Subilla McCorkle.

It was about 1884 when the Salvation Army came to town to conduct services. They first held their meetings in the Town Hall and paid one dollar per night for use of the hall. Later they constructed the Salvation Army Barracks on Queen St. and held interesting meetings there for several years. Several years ago they left town and the building is now

known as the Evangel Tabernacle and services are attended regularly by a fair sized congregation. Rev. Owen Grant is the present Pastor.

Dresden Newspapers —

The newspapers published in Dresden have been an important factor in promoting the interests of the community. The first newspaper published in Dresden was the Dresden Gazette in the year 1870. It was published by Alex Riggs who sold out to McClellan and McSween and they changed its name to the Dresden Times. It was later purchased by T. R. Stobbs and from him it passed into the hands of Hughes Bros. who sold out to Joseph Gadd. Mr. Colville managed the paper for a time. T. N. Wells worked in the office and learned the trade. He then worked in Toronto for five years, then he came back and purchased the business about the year 1891.

Mr. Wells conducted the paper independent of politics, with the interest of the town and community as its chief concern. On the death of Mr. T. N. Wells, the paper was taken over by his son Laurie who conducted it much in the same manner as followed by his father. When Laurie died, it was ably managed by his widow for a few months, until it was taken over by the present operator Wm. H. Bowes who is energetically endeavouring to keep up the excellent standard of the publication as a progressive community weekly newspaper.

In the year 1902 Charles H.

HISTORY OF DRESDEN

Gordon came to Dresden from Ridgeway and started the publication of a second weekly newspaper called the Standard. He conducted the paper in the interests of the Liberal party not overlooking the town and community interests. He gained many friends but found it difficult to get sufficient support to establish a second weekly paper at that time. After about three years he stopped publication.

In the year 1938 another weekly newspaper commenced publication in an office near the Dresden Bridge on St. George Street. The publishers are A. G. Ross and his son Charles A. Ross. Both these gentlemen are experienced printers. They conduct the paper on an independent basis and have secured a wide circulation considering that the paper is in strong competition with the Dresden Times. This new publication is called the Dresden News and it deals with matters of interest to the town and an extensive area in every direction around the town.

After the town was incorporated in 1881 the Council found plenty to do by way of improving the streets and protecting property from fires. They began by borrowing \$5000 to buy a fire engine and erected a shelter to protect it. In 1883 they granted the bonus of \$18,000 to bring in the Erie and Huron Railway, and

in 1884 the railroad officials asked a bonus of \$2500 to build the Spur on Water Street and Metcalfe Ave. to the O. & W. McVean factory. This bonus was not granted until 1887. In 1887 the present Fire Hall was built by A. E. Dowswell for the sum of \$2,549.00 and the main sewer on North and St. George Streets were laid. In 1889 electric lights were installed and in that same year when Asa Ribble was mayor a fine new iron bridge was constructed at a cost of \$17,000 and the old wooden bridge. These improvements brought the tax rate up to 22 mills on the dollar, the highest rate in any year up to that time.

In the year 1893 John Chapple who had been clerk of the Municipality since 1871 when the settlement was incorporated as a village, was taken ill, and Arthur Smith was appointed clerk pro tem. He held the position until 1898 until he was officially appointed clerk of the town. Robert Aikin was Mayor at this time.

In 1901 Asa Ribble was Mayor and an extensive industrial expansion of the town seemed to be starting. A proposition was presented to the council to grant \$1,800 to establish a Flax Mill. Later in the year this bonus was granted, the money was paid over to I. F. Hennigan and the factory was soon in operation on Metcalfe Ave. a short distance east of the bridge.

Chapter Five

DRESDEN'S SUGAR BEET FACTORY

Early in the year 1901 members of the council canvassed the surrounding district to ascertain what acreage of Sugar Beets the farmers would undertake to raise in case a Sugar Beet Factory should be erected in Dresden. They met with good results and this information was given to Capt. Davidson who was investigating the advisability of building a plant here. The promoters of the factory were asking a bonus of \$40,000 and this required careful consideration. The plant to be erected was to cost approximately six hundred thousand dollars, and the proposition looked good to the citizens. On Oct. 8, 1901 the by-law was passed and the building of the factory was soon started. The building was a splendid structure, equipped with the most modern machinery. The office was at the west end of Brown Street and the main entrance to the factory at the west end of Queen Street. The factory went into operation and all seemed to be going well until tax paying time came around.

It appears that the assessment of the plant and the taxes to be paid had been talked over informally by the owners of the factory and some members of the council and Captain Davidson had received the impression that the general assessment would be \$20,000 with a reasonable assessment for school

taxes. This agreement however was never submitted to the ratepayers, and was never confirmed by a motion of the Council.

An agreement was drawn up by the Company's own solicitor who apparently had not been well informed about the informal arrangement that had been made by Capt. Davidson and some of the Council as to the taxes, and assessment of the plant. Instead of stating that the assessment should be \$20,000 the agreement said that the taxes should not exceed \$20,000. This was confusing to the Assessor, and he assessed the plant for a sum that made the taxes about \$20,000. Captain Davidson complained of this and asked the Council to make the correction and assess the plant according to the original understanding.

Because this agreement had never been submitted to the whole council some of the council refused to make any change. After several meetings the council referred the matter to their own solicitor, J. W. Sharpe of Dresden. He gave the matter careful study and in his reply to the Council, informed them that according to recent legislation they had no power to give a fixed assessment, or to remit taxes to any ratepayer without submitting the whole question to the ratepayers for their approval. This statement from

the town's own solicitor caused a division in the council as to what should be done. Some wanted to hold the company exactly to the agreement as drawn up, others wanted to have it changed to conform to the original informal understanding. This dispute caused delay and the owner of the factory became impatient. The writer of this account was working in the sugar beet office at this time. One evening Mr. Davidson came into the office after attending a council meeting. He was very much agitated and began to talk to the manager, George Elsey. I heard him remark, "You know, George, we have made no money". "What will you do, Mr. Davidson?" asked Mr. Elsey. "I'll pull the thing down" said Mr. Davidson. There was no definite decision forthcoming from the council, and in a day or two a man was seen on top of the huge chimney stack tearing it down. The machinery was removed to Janesville, Wisconsin, and Capt. Davidson handed back to the town the \$40,000 debentures that he received from the town to help build the factory. Before this however the council did pass a by-law favouring the original agreement but it was then too late as Capt. Davidson had decided to move.

The removal of the sugar factory from Dresden was a damaging blow to the industrial development of the town, but it must be remembered that the cause of its removal was not altogether the dispute over taxes. Captain Davidson's statement to his manager, "George we have made no

money" explains the main cause but if he had been a little more patient the Town Council could have arranged the taxes according to the original understanding. The heavy expense of getting the sugar beets to the factory was an important reason why the plant had made no money. At that time the roads were often very bad in the fall, and a great many tons of sugar beets had to be brought in by railroad. Many came over the Grand Trunk Railway, as the Canadian National was then called. Then they had to be transferred to the Erie and Huron to reach Dresden. This caused a double freight rate for thousands of tons of beets which cut deeply into the profits. Then again the Wallaceburg sugar beet factory was in full operation and the Dresden plant could get very few beets from the western part of this district. These facts made short supplies and consequently, a small chance to operate with profit.

In spite of the removal of the sugar factory the town continued to improve as a good trading centre for farmers of the surrounding district. All of the settlers now had large clearings on their property and where raising good crops of grain and many cattle and horses and in Dresden they found ready markets for all that they could produce. There were grist mills where they sold their grain, or had it ground to make the flour needed in the homes. There were several traders who brought cattle, hogs and horses and shipped them to larger centres, and there was still a good market for

logs, cordwood and other such products that many of the farmers were still getting from their uncleared lands.

Town Businesses —

To furnish the goods needed by the citizens of Dresden and district there were a number of good stores in operation. In north Dresden the Baxter family was conducting an up-to-date bakery and J. Tassie had a good general store just north of the bridge. Robert Farnsworth was running a butcher shop near the north east corner of the bridge and Alex Cuthbert's harness shop on the corner just north of the school was furnishing all that was needed in that line. On the north bank of the river a short distance down Camden St. Laird Bros., Thomas and Frank, were running a planing mill and furnishing all sorts of lumber required for the building, and the Green Mountain Hotel was right on the spot to prevent shoppers from becoming too thirsty.

On the south side of the river, Hamilton Wadell had a well stocked grocery on the corner just south of the bridge, and Joshua Wright was in the coal and wood business on the river bank at the south west corner of the bridge. Sandy McVean's grist mill was going strong on the other side of the road, but the busy section of town was centred as now, on St. George St., from Lindsley to Robinson Sts., on Main St. to the river and one block west on Brown St. William Bear's toy shop on the west side of St. George street a little north of Lindsley was well known to all the youngsters of

that period. The Queen's Hotel on the corner of Lindsley street was the next place of interest to many on that side of the road, and on the corner of Queen Street, Doctors Bullis and Wiley's office was located. Still going south on the same side of the street, Dr. Galbraith's office was located in a house he had moved there from Metcalfe Ave, and south of this was Walter Watson's grocery and Smith's Dry Goods store where many woolen goods made in Dresden could be obtained. Miller's Drug Store, now Dusten's, was then in charge of Walter Wilson, and the hardware store next door was run by John and James McVean. Charlie Tassie was doing business in the store now conducted by Mayor Weese and his son Gerald. Switzer's drug store now Carr's was next and Wm. Ward, the jeweller, was just north of R. P. Wright's grocery on the corner of Brown Street. On the south side of Brown St. J. B. Carscallen's hardware store was doing a good business, and the Dresden Times a little west of the Carscallen's hardware, was then run by T. N. Wells. The main Street through the town changes its name when it passes Brown Street and is known as North Street. Continuing south on North St. we come to the photographer's shop N. Louehs; J. D. Ruble's grocery where Noble Law now does business; and on the corner of Robinson St., now Dr. Ruttle's office and the Lawn Bowling green, the Rudd Carriage works was in full swing. The chief business places on the east side of St. George St. and North St. were not so numer-

ous as on the west side. The Ripley family had a small grocery on the north corner of Lindsley St. and John Turner was buying eggs and poultry in the building on the opposite corner now run by Francis Foster. A Chinese laundry was located a little south of the Turner business place and T. D. Quigley was next with a sewing machine store. Close to this was Frank Well's barber shop and on the south corner of Queen Street the Dresden Standard was printed for about three years. Clare Grace kept a restaurant in this same block and John McGloghlin ran a watch and clock shop with the Dresden Library in the same store. On the Post Office corner the Clifford House stood, run by Allen McIntosh. The Bank of Commerce was built early in this century and a short distance south of this the Post Office was located in the building now occupied by the North Kent Insurance Company. It was then run by John Watson, son of C.P. Watson former postmaster. Next to the bank on Main St. Burnie's grocery, Kimmerly and Aikin's Dry Goods store and J. Lawrence also a dry goods store followed. Geo. Cragg's grocery was a short distance west of the Westcott House.

A new industry was started in Dresden about this time, W. H. Packham invented a very efficient stove damper and erected a building on the south side of Sydenham street to make these dampers. They became very popular and very large numbers were made and sold in all parts of Canada. The plant was later taken over by James Frank Myers.

The foregoing is a sketch of

some of the early business men in the early part of this century who deserve credit for assisting to maintain the town and bringing it to its present good standing.

About the year 1900 the High School classes in the Dresden School became overcrowded and it became evident that a larger school should be built to accommodate pupils from outside the district as well as those in town. Mr. H. A. Doupe was then the principal and Robert Brandon was in charge of the high school entrance class. The school board at first asked the council for \$25,000 to build the new school. This was later reduced to \$20,000 which sum the council raised for that purpose. Since the new school was to be built on the old school grounds, the classes were held in the Town Hall and other makeshift places while the school was being built. N. B. Carscallen was Mayor in 1909 and the school was opened for classes in 1911.

Previous to the year 1900 the fuel used in the town was mostly wood from the surrounding district. It was still quite reasonable in price, but as the supply became less abundant the price rose and many residents changed to coal, especially for heating purposes. In the year 1909 the Gas Company came to town and asked the right to pipe natural gas to serve the residents. This right was granted to the company, and natural gas for cooking purposes became the fuel in most of the residences. It was not long before it became the only fuel in most residences for both cooking and heating. Mr. Duncan Pattison

was for many years the town manager for the company, until his retirement a short time ago.

Previous to the year 1910 the moving picture show was scarcely known to the citizens of Dresden. Some travelling companies were still coming to town with a variety of shows, but moving pictures had to be shown in halls licenced for that purpose. About that year, Albert Sharpe, uncle of Ern Sharpe began to construct Dresden's present moving picture theatre. In order to keep down the cost of construction he did some of the work himself. One day Albert was somewhat tired as he had been working hard all day, when Chester Snary, who was running a nearby implement shop, walked in. Chester was about six feet four in height. "Say Albert" said Chester "why don't you build this thing a little higher?" "See here", said Albert, much agitated, "I want you to know that I'm not building this place for a long-legged giraffe!". Chester went home at once and Albert went on with his work. The theatre was finished and soon opened for business.

Sports in Dresden —

The history of Dresden would not be complete without a passing reference to the various sports that the young folks engaged in during its early settlement and also in more recent years. Hunting and fishing were the most exciting and profitable in the first few decades of the settlement. The Sydenham River was called the "Sturgeon River" by the first settlers, and the forests were alive with game of many varieties. The

presence of many fish and game made this form of recreation much more enjoyable.

When the first school was established other games were indulged in by the youngsters like Prisoner's Goal, Duck on a Rock and Pump Pump Pullaway. Football was soon introduced and in later years, many exciting games were arranged with players from nearby districts. The Market Square was Dresden's football field and the writer remembers a match against Chatham in the early years of this century, played in the pouring rain with hundreds of citizens crowding the Market Square, standing with their umbrella's up, and screaming almost wild when the only goal of the game was shot by a Dresden player.

Baseball very early became a favourite pastime with the young men of town and district, and Dresden's teams have been matched with those from places with many times our population. The finish of one interesting series of games that Dresden took part in will illustrate the interest the citizens and players took in the game. It was a series to determine the winner of the league that Dresden had been playing with all summer. St. Thomas and Dresden were the leading teams and three games were arranged with the first to be played in Dresden. Our pitcher had been doing outstanding work all summer, and when it was announced that Hank Johnson was to do the pitching against St. Thomas in the opening game the whole district came to Dresden for the game. Never before or

since was there such a crowd at a baseball game in Dresden. Among our players we had Goldie Gray, 'Rowboat' Thompson, "Chappe" Adkin, Jimmy Miller, Pete Wallace, Walt McFadden and others.

St. Thomas noticed the enthusiasm behind our team and they brought along three of their best pitchers. Our main "cheerleader" then, as he still is to-day was Fred Steeper and 'Oh Boy' how he did whip up the crowd. Well, Dresden won the first game and "On to St. Thomas" became the ringing by-word through the town. For the second game St. Thomas turned out in even greater numbers than we did at the first game, to see our great pitcher Hank Johnson in action. Our management however decided to hold Hank back for the final game at Chatham. St. Thomas won, but were disappointed at not seeing our number one pitcher in action. Then came the final at Chatham. Crowds jammed the ball park, both teams with their best players and both teams strongly supported by their own citizens. Fred Steeper, dressed like a boy, and taking with him a live goat to get the St. Thomas's goat at the end of the game. Well Dresden lost and poor Fred was forced to hide his goat, fearing that St. Thomas would get it to show they had at last got our goat.

In 1911 when Asa Ribble was Mayor a by-law was passed to establish a waterworks system in Dresden. \$16,000 was raised for this purpose but the only water available for that purpose as yet was river water. It was to be used

for fire protection, sprinkling gardens and all such purposes but not for drinking purposes, as it was not purified. The system was found useful but the residents still had to keep their wells in condition for drinking water.

In this year 1911 Mayor Ribble, a man who had served the town as Mayor for several years and as a captain had guided more boats up and down the river to and from Dresden than any other citizen, passed to his reward and his passing was much regretted by every Dresden citizen.

In the year 1913 the Public Library building was completed and opened for service. The funds for building the library were given to the town by Andrew Carnegie. The amount was \$8,000 and it was given on the condition that the town would provide \$800 per year for the maintenance of the Library. This the town undertook to do, and they passed a by-law making it a free public library. Dr. H. S. McDonald, Dr. J. I. Wiley and J. E. McGloghlin were appointed by the council the first library board. Mr. George Clark of Dresden was the contractor and the building is a credit to his workmanship.

In the year 1912 the present post office was built and opened up in 1913. The post office had been carried on for several years in the office now owned by the North Kent Mutual Fire Insurance Company. It was rather small for the space needed. Mail for Dawn Mills, Rutherford and Dawn Valley post offices was then sorted and sent out from Dresden. The rural service was also begin-

omas Robert Edward McInnis stowed himself away on one of the boats that came up the Sydenham to Dresden, hoping the boat would land him in a foreign country. The whole village turned out to hunt the missing boy, and finally found him before the boat left the dock. The report goes on to say that one of the staves which were being made in Dresden by the thousands, to make barrels, was unsparingly used on the boy, to teach him not to run away again. This same boy became a lawyer in 1893, but followed various occupations and finally became a noted writer and poet whose writings were classed among the best in Canada. His brother, William McInnis was elected member of Parliament for Vancouver, and he later became a Cabinet Minister.

Hughes Brothers, Rev. Thomas and Sam, Dr. Winters and Captain Ribble were other prominent citizens who contributed important services that helped develop the village at this time. Dr. Winters' home was at the end of Brock St. on the river bank.

One of the earliest places to serve ice-cream and other such refreshments was erected, near the south-east corner of Main Street, by John Young. It was later kept by Mr. Hollingsworth and was called "The Sweet Brier Cottage".

In the meantime, some progress had been made on the British American Institute lands. Many refugee slaves had come there for shelter and assistance. It required considerable funds to continue this work. The land was covered

with fine timber and the refugees were set to work cutting this timber and preparing it for market. There was a large number of fine Walnut trees on the property and a saw-mill was badly needed to prepare this timber so that a good price could be obtained. Josiah Henson knew that there were many people in the United States and England who were sympathetic to the cause of the refugee slaves. He therefore left the Institute in the charge of the manager and went on a lecturing tour to raise funds to erect a saw-mill. After making one or two trips he returned with sufficient funds to build the mill and it was soon in operation. It should be understood that although Henson raised the money to build the mill, it was donated to assist the cause of the refugee slaves. Henson had some fine Walnut boards prepared. He took them to England and placed them on exhibition at a big International Show that was being held in the Crystal Palace. This brought him into prominence with many good people as they considered it remarkable that an escaped slave could do such good work. He stayed and visited with many influential people but when he returned to Canada he found that the mill had been poorly managed and had contracted several debts. The mill workers had been poorly paid, and they began to drift away from the Institute to get better pay.

Besides the saw-mill on the Institute, a grist mill had been built, very largely by Josiah Henson's efforts in raising money. A dispute arose between the mana-

ger and the settlers on the land as to how it should be controlled. Josiah persuaded the Colonists to give him the power of attorney. He at once started a law suit, to take the property away from the control of the manager. The suit dragged on for a number of years, without reaching a decision. In the meantime, the sawmill manager loaded some boats with fine timber and told the workers he was going to sell this to get supplies. He did not return and the workers who were waiting to get their pay, tore down the mill and left the place in disgust.

The lawsuit dragged on, Henson paying the costs by mortgaging part of the property until the total debt amounted to about \$8,000. He became much concerned about the grist-mill as he felt that it belonged to him.

The old log shelter built in the early years of the Institute for a school and lodging house had been torn down by the manager who had promised to build a new one. This he was never able to do. Henson saw that the Institute was about to break up and he determined to get possession of the grist mill, which he considered belonged to him, as his efforts had built it.

A Ghost Story —

The story of its removal from the Institute was told as a ghost story by early writers because at nightfall it stood firmly in its place, but in the morning when the residents awakened the mill was gone, they knew not where. But Henson and his gang did. He explained to his followers that he wanted to keep possession of the

mill in order that the coloured people could get better service than they received at the other mills. At nightfall Henson and his helpers went to work, loaded the mill on wagons and took it away to a new location on the bank of the river between the east end of Main and Brock Streets, where it became the foundation of the present mill on that location. The story of its removal by "Ghosts" caused much merriment.

As the Institute had now become almost deserted, the Courts ended the law suit that Henson had started years before. They appointed new Trustees and gave them authority to sell the land at Public Auction. This was done in the year 1871, and the property which was bought for twelve hundred dollars, sold, part by private sale, and part by auction for \$40,000. They paid the debts, about \$8,000, and with the remainder they erected a school in Chatham, the Wilberforce Institute. It was a good looking building, for the days in which it was built, but when the High School became available to all, the Wilberforce Institute was closed and was soon in ruins.

Henson's activities did not stop entirely when the British American Institute was sold. He made another visit to England and lectured in many halls and churches, but the people were losing interest in the cause of the emancipated slaves, and he soon found it advisable to return to Canada.

There has been much controversy regarding Josiah Henson's right to be called "Uncle Tom", the character so skillfully pictured in the book Uncle Tom's Cabin

ning about this time and a larger post office was necessary. It was largely through the influence of Mr. D. A. Gordon of Wallaceburg, who was then our member of parliament, that the office was built. The contractor was Mr. William Clark, father of George Clark, and competent men who have inspected the building say that it is a splendid monument to the workmanship of the builder. Mr. H. J. French was the first postmaster in the new building. He was in there about a year and a half when it was taken over by Robert Brandon who held the position for thirty-five years when he reached the retirement age. It was then transferred to Irvin Law, a veteran who had given five years service overseas in World War II. A fair record of post office service could not be given without mentioning the name of Miss Eliza Rudd who was the efficient assistant in the office for over forty years. She was faithful and attentive to her duties and esteemed by all the patrons of the office. Mr. Brandon's term of office was exceeded by Mr. C. P. Watson by only one year. He was postmaster for 36 years when he resigned in favour of his son John. John Watson was postmaster for about twelve years, when it was taken over by H. J. French.

The Dresden lawn bowling club is an organization that has contributed much to the social life and enjoyment of many of its members. Early in this century it was organized by a number of citizens among whom Dr. J.I. Weley, Dr. H.S. McDonald and

G.E. Weir the lawyer, were the leaders. The first lawn bowling green was located at the west end of Queen street, where many interesting hours were spent playing local matches, as well as matches with rinks that came from Chatham, Ridgeway, Petrolia and other nearby places. When the Rudd carriage shop stopped operations on the corner of Robinson and North streets, the club purchased the property and made a full sized bowling green, on the land that they still own and also where Dr. J. Ruttle's house stands. About 40 interested members and business men each contributed twenty-five dollars to pay for the land and complete the construction of the green.

The new green was opened with a grand tournament attended by all the leading lawn bowlers between London and Windsor and the games did not finish until three o'clock the next morning. Duncan Pattison an enthusiastic Scotch lawn bowler was one of the leading men who helped to construct the new green. Roy Carscallen has always been a strong supporter of the game and Charlie Aikin has been a member for many years. The new green was purchased in 1919 by the trustees of the club. The trustees then were Dr. H.S. McDonald, Thomas Convay, the telephone manager and Ben Madden. In 1935 the membership dwindled and care of the big green became too expensive, and a part of it was sold to Dr. Ruttle on which he built his home.

In the year 1917 Arthur Smith

was unable to carry on the work as the clerk of the town. He proved a capable officer while he had held the office, but as age crept on he was forced to relinquish the office and John Bridgewater was appointed to fill the position.

The Maple Leaf Milling Co. came to town in 1918 and built a fine Flour Mill on the corner of Main St. and Metcalfe Ave. It was fine structure and carried on a fine business for a time. The mill was taken over later by Mr. George Lawrence, and Mr. Walefield, who were experienced millers. The mill was destroyed by fire and what remained for it was used as a hatchery and feed store.

It was about the year 1919 that the mill at the bridge changed hands, Sandy McVean a man greatly esteemed by all who knew him had operated the mill since 1876. Many a farmer gives Sandy the credit for the help he gave them to tide them over trying periods when crops were slim, and prices low, and Sandy often stated that there were very few whom he assisted in this way that did not deal squarely with him. In 1919 the mill was sold to George Lawrence a capable business man who carried on until 1947 and then sold out to the present operators.

Although the councils previous to 1920 had spent plenty of money putting gravel on the main streets, the roads were in very bad condition especially in wet weather and as automobiles were then coming into more common use the council of 1921, began to consider permanent improvement.

At this time the town bus driven by Alvin Paupst went regularly to the railway station to meet every train and it was a common thing to see the bus, or the dray driven by M.C.A. Humphrey stuck in the mud between the station and the main part of town. Peter McDuffe was mayor in 1921, and the council requested that the county council, the councils of Camden and Chatham Townships, ask the Provincial government to make the road from Wallaceburg through Dresden to Thanesville a County Provincial Road. This was not done as requested but it drew attention to the needed improvement. In 1922 the paving of St. George and North Streets was done and the town issued debentures for \$56,241.00 to pay for it. The tax rate went up to 52 mills but the citizens appreciated the good road and paid the bill. In 1927 Walter S. Weese was mayor and a request was sent to the Provincial Government requesting that number 21 Highway be built to pass from Morpeth through Dresden.

In 1914 war was declared between Great Britain and Germany and Canada at once prepared to assist. Dresden was not slow to take part. A large number of our fine young men at once enlisted and soon they were overseas in the thick of the fight. It was the custom at this time for any family who had a son in the army to hang a maple leaf in the window for each son in the service. The Daughters of the Empire in Dresden led by Mrs. Osgood McVean were active

at this time, and in order to show the amount of service given by Dresden and surrounding district they had the large service flag made and framed, that is still hanging on the north wall of the Dresden Post Office. The number of maple leaves on that service flag, nearly 110, shows the number of men from here who served in World War I.

A number of these fine boys found an early grave on the battle fields of Europe, and in order to perpetuate their memory the Daughters of the Empire still under the leadership of Mrs. Osgood McVean raised funds to erect the cenotaph that stands on the corner of Queen and St. George Streets. This spot was taken up by a large well, 10 feet across, that was formally used by the town for fire protection purposes. This was filled up, the cenotaph erected, and unveiled on Armistice Day 1923. Mrs. Robert Brandon was chairman of the committee that helped to raise the funds and erected the memorial.

The following are the names of the men who were killed in action in World War I, or subsequently died of war injuries:

Pte. Walter Lester Babcock, Sapper Wilson Babcock, Private Henry Badgeley, Private Charles Beaton, Private John W. Davis, Private de Wolfe, Sergeant Geo. H. Eberlee, Private Edward Evans, Private Edgar Francis, Sergeant Lorne French.

Private John Goodwin, Private James Goodwin, Private D. Graham, Flight Lieutenant John Humphrey, Private Orval Y. Id-

en, Private Charles P. Kerr, Sapper Fred Lapointe, Private John Latimer, Private Walter J. Lucas, Flight Lieutenant James Wm. McVean.

Private Tracey W. Ogletree, Private Hugh Pollock, Private William Smale, Private Warren Smith, Lieutenant Benjamin Tassee, Corporal Ralph Webster, Private John William Wells.

The Diamond Jubilee of the formation of the Dominion of Canada was celebrated in Canada in the year 1927 and Dresden planned to hold the celebration in town. One of the outstanding features of the festival was a contest as to who should represent Miss Canada on the beautiful float on which she and all the representative of the various Provinces should ride. The citizens were to chose Miss Canada by vote and they paid one cent for each vote. The young woman getting the largest vote would be Miss Canada, the second Miss Ontario, the third Miss Quebec etc. The contest created very much interest and the funds obtained in this way assisted in carrying on the celebration. Miss Annie McKinnon was the honoured lady.

In 1928 Dresden held a very successful Old Boys Reunion that brought back to town many of the old time residents. The usual attractions to entertain the visitors included, back to school days, old timers base ball, old time dress, attractive horse racing, and concerts of the best talent in the evening.

Dresden became a town in the year 1881, and in the year 1931,

Mr. Walter Weese was Mayor and the Golden Jubilee of the formation of the town was celebrated in good fashion. In all three celebrations, Robert Brandon was

chairman and he was ably supported by strong capable committees who worked energetically to bring each one to a successful ending.

Chapter Six

TOWN UTILITIES — THE DRESDEN BAND — FIRE OF 1910 — BOATS ON THE SYDENHAM — WORLD WAR II

A further step was taken to provide a water system in Dresden in 1920. Mr. M. Humphrey was Mayor and the council decided to erect a water tank that would give a constant pressure in the mains at any time of the day. This water tank cost the town \$8,610.00 but we still had only river water to use. In 1929 an offer was made to supply pure water at a cost of \$55,000 but the tax rate was then 47 mills and the council was not satisfied with the plans that were proposed to supply the water.

Although the town had given the railroad through Dresden eighteen thousand dollars to provide service to the town, in 1926 it began to curtail the passenger service and also cut off some trains so that we had very poor mail service. Arthur Hoyles was Mayor at that time and the council sent a vigorous protest asking the railroad to re-establish the former service. The railroad insisted that there was not sufficient patronage to maintain the trains and soon they refused to carry the mails. The government then established the present system of carrying the mail into

town by truck and soon a bus service was started to carry passengers. The mail service was greatly improved by this change but the bus service has been started and stopped more than once, on account of insufficient patronage, and now 1950 the only service in and out of town is by taxi service. This service is good but somewhat expensive for ordinary people.

In the early days of the settlement when the village was rapidly growing into a town, a number of enterprising music lovers approached the Council asking for a grant to assist in organising a brass band. This was in the year 1876. They explained that they needed instruments, band suits, and a teacher. Joseph M. Shaw headed the delegation and he was supported by Alfred Hughes, Geo. Kenter, Joe Wannamaker, Wm. Nelles, Geo. Nelles, and Wesley Weese all of whom wished to join the band if it could be organized. The Council of that year had many necessary improvements to undertake and for lack of available funds refused to make the grant. The promot-

ers of the band stuck to their plans and in a short time the band was formed and most of the men mentioned above became members. They played on the boats carrying excursions to Walpole, Sarnia and Detroit and soon developed fair ability. They also played at picnics and entertainments in town and the surrounding districts, but received no support by way of grants from the town. The town did pay the band for playing at celebrations like the first of July, but always had good excuses when a grant was requested. However the band carried on for several years until some of the players left the town and for a time the town was without a band.

A band was organized by the Salvation Army. After it came to town several of the musicians of the former town band joined this band and helped to provide the citizens with music, that was good and enjoyable.

The brass band serving the town at the present time was organized in 1927 when the town was preparing to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the formation of the Dominion of Canada. Robert Brandon the chairman named a committee of experienced musicians and asked them to do everything possible to have a Dresden band for the celebrations. The committee was composed of William McVean, Charles Aikin, William Wickens and the Smale brothers, Roy and Russell. They picked several others from town and surrounding district and the band under the leadership of Mr. Charles Aikin

was ready for the celebration. Mr. Aikin continued to lead this band for twenty-two years and during that time many fine musicians have been developed. The Smale brothers who assisted in the organization of the band started to play brass instruments in the Dresden Salvation Army band when they were fourteen years old.

In the year 1928 Dresden lost another efficient public servant in the person of John Bridgewater who had been town clerk since 1909. He was a careful, painstaking man and his death was regretted by the whole town. He was succeeded by our own clerk Mr. E. J. Kyle who served the municipality for thirty years, first as superintendent of Hydro Service and since 1928 as town clerk.

About this time Cecil Babcock was appointed Chief of Police. He was a jovial, good-natured officer and held office until 1932, when he resigned to take a position in Kingsville Ont.

In 1929 an industrial depression spread over the country causing an unusual amount of unemployment. This depression was felt most in the larger centres and many people from these places returned to their former homes and villages and towns where their relatives and friends lived. Thus the depression spread to smaller places, and Dresden was one of the places affected. Arthur Hoyle was then Mayor and the council asked the government for a grant of \$5000 to relieve unemployment. The sum of \$4000 was granted but it was

to be used for public works like the extension of sewers and such work. Early in 1931 when Walter Weese was Mayor, 2800 feet of 12 inch sewer pipe was purchased and laid along Centre Street to the river. This was one of the projects undertaken to relieve unemployment. The depression continued for some time and as late as 1934 the council paid as little as 18 cents per hour for trimming trees to relieve unemployment. In the year 1938 the town council was forced to complain to the Provincial Government that too many families on relief had been brought to Dresden, and that they be taken away as soon as possible.

Chief Babcock resigned in 1932 and Robert A. Blackburn was appointed Chief of Police. He was the son of Myron Blackburn who was clerk of Camden for many years. He was Chief of Police until 1939 when he enlisted for Overseas service in World War II. He was one of the fine men who unfortunately was killed overseas.

The Fire Of 1910 —

A disastrous fire happened in the year 1910, on Christmas eve, on the south side of Main street. After a busy day preparing for Christmas, fire broke out in the main block on this street. A large number of citizens flocking to the fire among them Mr. D. V. Hicks a prominent citizen and the Rev. George Long the minister of the Methodist Church. They were standing near the store of the Robert Aikin Co. when an explosion occurred and a mass of bricks from the front of the store

fell over them. Mr. Long and Mr. Hicks were both severely injured and in spite of all the doctors could do, Mr. Hicks died almost immediately and Mr. Long lived only part of the next day. Sorrow and gloom spread over the town on that Christmas day.

In the year 1932 the Queen's hotel that stood on the south west corner of St. George and Linsley Street was destroyed by fire. It was a large frame building that in the early days of the village was built on the market square at the south east corner and later was moved to St. George Street. When the fire took place in Dresden in 1932 it was a difficult one to control and Wallaceburg fire company came to Dresden to assist our firemen.

About the year 1918 the old Union block, a row of frame buildings built in the early days of the village on the east side of St. George St. from Main to Queen Street was destroyed by fire. Its place has now been filled by substantial brick buildings that have improved the street materially.

In the year 1933 the fine bridge which spans the Sydenham river where it crosses St. George St. was built. It was the third bridge built at that point. First a wooden bridge built in 1864 made chiefly from timber of the surrounding district, then the iron bridge in 1889 and finally the present substantial structure. Roy Carscallen was Mayor in 1933 and Byron McKim was Reeve and they were largely responsible for getting the County and Province to finance this important undertak-

HISTORY OF DRESDEN

ing.

Though the Dresden Cemetery comprised an extensive tract of land it was rapidly being bought up by people in town and surrounding district, and the Cemetery Board considered it wise to arrange to buy six acres of land adjoining the cemetery that belonged to the Anglican Church. The town paid \$600 for this plot of land and were planning to have it levelled and plotted but permission must first be obtained from the government to detach it from the town to make a cemetery.

In late years very few boats have attempted to come up the river as far as Dresden owing to the fact that the river channel had become shallow in many places. The council had previously had boat loads of gravel brought to town, and in order to continue this practice they sent a request to the government in 1939, when Geo. Clark was Mayor, asking that the river be cleaned out to a depth of 12 ft. No action was taken however.

For several years the Dresden Bass Band played on the old band stand at the corner of Centre and Robinson Streets. This location often caused much congestion on these streets and as the band stand was getting old the Band asked the assistance of the Council to help build a new band shell in a more suitable location. The Council gave the required grant and the present Band Shell one of the best in the district was built in 1939 by Gordon Clark at a cost of \$635.

Early in the year 1940 the position of Chief of Police was vacant owing to the enlistment of Archie Blackburn and our present Chief Watson was appointed to the position. He is an officer who has given unbiased service in carrying out his duties. There was a short break in the time he held the position, owing to a difference of opinion of some of the councillors but they soon came to the agreement that he was the right man for the position and today he holds the respect of all the citizens.

In the year 1934 our eight roomed school became overcrowded and two additional rooms were built to accomodate High School students coming in from the country. George Clark did the work at a cost of \$6,500.

Harold McKim became Mayor and Francis Foster was Reeve in the year 1941 and they at once began to get information as to the best method of obtaining pure water for the citizens of Dresden. Much money had been spent in laying pipes and building the tank, but without a pure water supply the service was unsatisfactory. They discussed the matter with experienced men like Mr. Redfern of Toronto and the council decided to test wells. Before the end of the year they had a well on G. Simpson's farm on the third concession Camden Gore that produced 400 gallons per minute. It was no easy problem to solve. This well was 4000 feet from the town waterworks. The right of way to lay pipes had to be obtained and the question of whether the supply would con-

HISTORY OF DRESDEN

tinue had to be carefully considered. They took their time to thoroughly consider these matters as well as getting the authority from the government to use water from this well for general purposes. By the year 1943 these matters were settled and the council issued debentures for \$39,000, to provide a pure water system for the town. Harold McKim was still Mayor and Francis Foster was Reeve. The nearest way to get good water into the town was through the property of H.D. Anderson. For the sum of \$400 this was arranged and soon after the pure water system was in operation.

In the year 1939 when the Second World War began a large number of Dresden and district young men were called into the service to join the Canadian Forces overseas. After five years many of them returned, some suffering serious disabilities, but many had found early graves on the battlefields of Europe. Catherine McVean Chapter Daughters of the Empire again took up the work of establishing a memorial to the memory of the brave young men who did not come back. They raised a fund to construct a second bronze plaque bearing the names of those who died in the service of their country and had it placed on the south side of the Dresden Cenotaph which was erected, after World War I. The names inscribed are as follows.

P/O Jacques Munn
P/O Anthony Palanek
Capt. R.A. Tiffin

Cpl. R. A. Blackburn
Cpl. Gordon Currie
L/cpl Carson Steel
Pte. A. I. Sedgman
F/O Gerald Fox
Pte. Hugh McFadden
F/O Roy G. Duston
P/O Dougal Turner
Para. Jack McKernan
F/O Charles Hebden
Pte. Garland Floyd Richards
Pte. Chester Doan

In the year 1945 the Dresden Council appointed a welcome home committee with Gordon Wees as chariman. The work of this committee was to arrange "Welcome Home" meetings for the men who were returning from overseas service. Several meetings were held and each man who enlisted while living in Dresden and who served in the forces overseas was presented with a fine gold ring as a remembrance of the service given to his country. The rings for the brave men who found early graves overseas were presented to the wife or some other member of the family.

Shortly after the close of the war the returned men formed a Canadian Legion Branch in Dresden. They soon raised enough funds and purchased the Green Mountain Hotel building thinking to remodel it to serve their needs, but they found this unsatisfactory and decided to build a new hall. This they did and they now have a fine Legion Hall at the north west corner of the bridge and have a strong active branch of the Canadian Legion.

Although Dresden had a fine ten roomed school the accomodation was found insufficient as

many students from the surround district were coming to Dresden for High School training. Harold McKim was still Mayor and Francis Foster Reeve, in 1946 when the council sent a deputation to Toronto requesting that Dresden be made the centre of a High School District. To make such a change many matters have to be considered. The County Councils of both Kent and Lambton had to give their consent as well as each municipality whose territory forms part of the district. Then a High School District School Board is formed and the various municipalities must agree to the proportionate amount of costs to be paid to each. The location of the

school is another very important matter to be decided and the approval of the Government to the whole scheme must be obtained.

All this was apparently settled until a short time ago when one at least of the municipalities involved began to make objections to coming into the Kent-Lambton High School District. They seem to be objecting on the grounds that other high schools are more convenient for them than the one proposed at Dresden. At this date Sept. 25th 1950 the matter is still not definitely settled but we are hoping for an agreeable settlement soon as the Dresden Schools are now overcrowded.

Chapter Seven

DRESDEN'S MORE RECENT YEARS

In 1946 the Industrial committee of the town council reported that the Greenmelk Company had purchased land on the river bank near the end of Sydenham St. and were preparing to build a plant at that point. The plant soon was in operation and has been very active ever since. Employing twelve men it manufactures De-hydrated alfalfa meal and cereal grasses, and they gather the fresh green grass from several farms in the district.

Canadian Canners in 1946 secured land to build a modern plant in Dresden. They chose a location on the railway spur

coming from the main line to Water Street. To give them a convenient outlet from the plant with trucks the town opened up a short street which is named Ann Street and they also extended Wellington Street from Sydenham Street to the plant. A fixed assessment of \$22,000 for ten years was arranged. As well as providing much employment to our citizens the plant provides a good market for the farm product that many farmers raise.

In 1942 Dresden Town Hall was destroyed by fire. It had been the meeting place for all sorts of amusement, as well as for public meetings of all kinds since 1874

when it was built. The building was insured and it was the intention to start building soon after the fire. But the war was still on and Council found materials scarce, and very expensive so the insurance money was placed in a trust fund to wait for better times to build. At the present time is still in the trust fund and now amounts to \$11,594 according to the auditor's report of 1949.

The history of Dresden cannot be fully told without reference to Dresden's volunteer fire fighters. It is not easy to name all the men who served the town in this capacity but the town owes them a word of gratitude for the fine service rendered. Yes, we do pay them a small amount, enough to get their boot's blacked and a clean-up after a fire, but we must honor them for the service they give in standing ready at all times to protect our homes and property. Thomas Warner served the town in this way over 30 years, 17 years as chief and our chief now has served for 13 years. The Ontario Firemen's Association will meet in Dresden in 1951 and our chief Rufus Law is Hon-Vice Chief of that association.

The Dresden branch of the Kinsmen are deserving of much credit for the fine Athletic Park they have made at the south east part of town, with its entrance on Sydenham Street. They purchased the land and levelled it to make a fine base-ball diamond. They erected a large grand stand and provided screens to protect the fans. At the west end of the park they provided swings and

slides for the children and a wading pool was built for the smaller children. The park is a credit to Dresden Kinsmen as it provides a splendid place for all outside gatherings in the summer.

In looking over the list showing the names of men who served the town as Mayor we note that Harold McKim held the office for eight continuous years. During his term of office he was ably assisted by Reeve Francis Foster, for six of the eight years, and together with the rest of the councils, the town made important progress. The pure water system long desired by the citizens was finally established; much paving on the side streets was completed, the Greenmelk and the Canning factory were built and arrangements begun to form the Kent-Lambton High School district. Reeve Francis Foster was honoured by being chosen Warden in 1946 and Mayor McKim continued as Mayor until 1948. In 1937 Byron McKim father of Harold also was Warden of the County of Kent.

Dresden has suffered two quite extensive floods since the beginning of the present century, one about the year 1906 and the other in 1947. The area affected most was south of the river as far south as Queen Street. The general cause was blockades of ice on the river west of Dresden, causing the river to overflow its banks at this point. At the town clerk's office the water was at least two feet deep and it became deeper as you went nearer the river. Many people suffered dam-

HISTORY OF DRESDEN

age to furniture and property but no loss of life resulted.

The Red Cross of which there was a strong active branch in Dresden provided considerable help to folks who were financially unable to repair the damage.

In the year 1947 the Czechoslovakian Hall was built on St. John St. It was erected by the Czechoslovakian Friendship Club and is being used for all kinds of social gatherings for the people who built it as well as all other organizations in town.

National Hardware —

In the year 1949 the National Hardware Specialties Company located a plant in Dresden along the railway spur, south of the Canadian Canners plant and the council agreed to extend a street to their plant. This has been done and the factory is in operation. The company asked for an assessment in proportion to that of the Canadian Canners. This question was submitted to the ratepayers in 1950 but the amount proposed \$3000 was considered too low by those qualified to vote. The matter is being given careful consideration in order to arrive at a figure satisfactory to both town and the company.

In the same year 1949 the school board asked for another temporary school to relieve over-crowding in the available classrooms. This was built at a cost of \$8000. The first temporary school in 1945 cost only \$3000.

The council of 1949 with Walter Weese Mayor and his son Douglas, Reeve, the council asked the Government to resurface

Number 21 Highway within the town limits. This was done in 1950 and to make a complete job, the road was widened and paved to the curbstone. This improved parking space and gives a good clear road for through traffic.

In recent years an extensive building program has been going on in various parts of the country and Dresden has entered into this important enterprise to a considerable extent. During the Second World War there was little of this done owing to shortage of material, but when the men returned from Europe, many of them married overseas, a big shortage of houses was noticed. Dresden felt the need as well as other places and a number of fine substantial homes have been erected in various parts of town. Some business places have been extended and modernized and three new factories have been built. This has raised the assessed value so that the total now is over one million dollars while in 1881 when it was incorporated a town the assessment was \$372, 940.00 a little over one third of the present assessed value.

The debt at the end of 1949 is not excessive as most of it is for public utilities which are self supporting. The debt on the water system is \$38,624.62. This is paid out of water rates collected. On the schools we owe \$8,000.00 and on drainage \$1989.74 that is a total of \$9,989.74 over what is collected on water rates. In addition to this there is a deficit of \$10,039.32 at the end of 1949, which apparently accumulated in

the current accounts of 1948, and '49. This cannot be considered as a burdensome debt for with careful management most of it will be liquidated in a short time.

This account of the growth and development of the town of Dresden would not be complete without a complimentary reference to the services given to the town by the present mayor Mr. Walter S. Weese. He is the son of the late W. I. Weese who was a prominent farmer in Camden Township, and later was manager of the Farmer's Co-Operative Association which is located a little south of Dresden. Mayor Weese came to Dresden when quite young and engaged in the farm implement business, and during the great depression which began in 1930 he was appointed Relief Inspector for this district. He was elected Mayor in the years 1927-28 and '29. During his term of service as relief inspector he was instrumental in locating a number of new families, from outside places in Dresden. He was again appointed Mayor in 1931 and 1934. In the year 1931 he arranged the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the incorporation of Dresden as a town. In that same year a large drain was put down Centre St. from Holden St. to the river to assist in the relief of unemployment.

He is now carrying on a successful grocery and shoe store, with the assistance of his son Gerald. He was again chosen Mayor of the town in 1949-50, and was again elected for the year 1951. During his latter term as Mayor

he has assisted materially in securing some important additions and improvements in the town. The new Hardware Specialties Factory, the widening and repairing of the main street and the establishing of a District High School, are important matters to be credited to his services.

The Camden Dresden Agricultural Society is an institution for which some of the early inhabitants merit considerable credit. The first Camden Fair was held at Dawn Mills when that place was progressing under the leadership of James Smith and William Taylor. During the rebellion of 1837, Mr. Taylor was commissioned as a Captain and Mr. Smith as a Lieutenant. They raised a company of volunteers and a drill shed was built at Dawn Mills for the accommodation of the volunteers. It was in this drill shed, long after the rebellion, that the first Camden Fair was held. When the place lost most of its early settlers, the drill shed was moved to Dresden where a company of the Kent Regiment had been organized and it was located on the west side of the Dresden Market Square.

About 1875 a number of Dresden citizens headed by Alex Watson, brother of C. P. Watson, petitioned the council of Dresden to hold a fair where horses and cattle could be shown and sold. Their petition was granted and J. W. Sharpe, R. P. Wright, Jas. Stephens, Wm. Rudd and W. H. Switzer were appointed to make the necessary plans. The fair was arranged on the Market Square and the drill shed was used in

HISTORY OF DRESDEN

which to make exhibits of handiwork, sewing etc. The fair was held here for two or three years, after which the society purchased the present grounds and commenced its improvements.

The first meeting of the Camden Agricultural Society of which we have complete records was held in July 1891. R. P. Wright was President and John Chapple was secretary. The directors were James Blackburn, D. V. Hicks, Thomas Weese, Samuel Sharpe, Wm. Paling, John Turner and Henry Weston. These men worked faithfully to make the fair interesting and useful. In later years we find the names of W. H. Clapp, John Holmes, Irvine Bedford, James Currie, Thomas Skinner and W. J. Foster, serving as officers and directors of the society. In more recent years it was found that the old building that stood near the front gate of the Fair Grounds was too small and antiquated to serve the purpose. It was removed and the new building south of the grandstand was erected; a little later the new buildings for cattle, horses sheep, hogs and poultry were built. Besides some of those mentioned above several other promoters assisted in securing these new buildings, Clarence Craven was one of the leaders, and he was ably assisted by Geo. Lawrence, Morley Myers, Ray Houston, Reg Tyhurst, Wilfred Shaw, Vern Robinson, Wm. Johnston, John Gibson, Sam Wallace and Harry French. In 1949 when Roy Carscallen was president the society constructed a fine grandstand

costing about \$25,000 and this is proving to be a valuable asset for it is extensively used at fair time, at horse shows, and horse races and makes the Fair Grounds one of the most attractive in the district. Roy Stevenson is the president for 1951 and Alex Blackburn, grandson of James Blackburn, one of the first directors, is secretary treasurer. Other early treasurer's were J. B. Carscallen, father of Roy Carscallen, John Bridgewater, H. J. French, and Fred Houston.

In more recent years Dresden baseball fans have been treated to some thrilling games that brought the town into prominence as a baseball centre. The ball playing grounds at the Dresden School is somewhat small but large enough to give considerable experience to many of the young players. As early as 1939 Robert Campbell undertook the management of a Junior "B" team that did some outstanding playing. They won several Western Ontario Championships and became a real attraction in every town they played. In the year 1945 Stanley Wells took over the management and the Junior "B" team won four straight championships in their class. One of the prominent pitchers in this series of victories was Roy Holmes. When his name was mentioned as a starter in any game a good crowd was assured. His team mate, the catcher for most of these games was Fred Wicks, a player as much at home behind the bat as Roy Holmes was in the pitchers box.

In 1950 the Dresden Senior

HISTORY OF DRESDEN

baseball team was one of the "big six" organization, including Chatham, Wallaceburg, Strathroy, Windsor, Tilbury and Dresden. Roy Holmes had now outgrown the Junior "B" class and with the assistance of George Bedell another excellent pitcher, and Francis (Red) Brewer a very able man behind the bat. Dresden won the 1950 championship. The fine ball park purchased and arranged by the Dresden Kinsmen has contributed much to develop these excellent teams and provide enjoyment to lovers of this sport.

In the year 1949, the Dresden Hydro Commission asked the Council to issue and guarantee payment of Debentures to the amount of \$26,000 to build a new office show room and garage on the south side of Main St. between Tecumseh and Water Sts. These debentures would be paid out of hydro revenue but the law requires that they be guaranteed by the municipality. The request was granted, and the contract to build the office was given to Mr. George Clark of Dresden. The office was completed at the beginning of 1951. The amount of power used in Dresden and district has steadily increased since hydro power was first used in the town in the year 1908 and the new office show room and garage was badly needed.

The success of the local plant should be credited in a marked degree to the men who have served on the Dresden Hydro Board since it was brought into Dresden. An outstanding member of that Board is Mr. Clarence Cra-

ven of Dresden who is now chairman. He has served the municipality on that board for twenty-two years and at the elections in 1950 he was again elected by acclamation for 1951 and 1952. Such devoted service to assist the growth and maintenance of the town is deserving of special commendation. His name together with that of Mayor Walter Weese appears on a bronze plaque on the west wall of the new office. The name of Orlah Martin also appears on the plaque.

Administration of Law —

Previous to the year 1875 the question of Law and Order, and the administration of Justice was carried on by the Magistrates of the County in which Dresden was located. Up until the year 1853 we were in the County of Lambton. In that year we were detached from Lambton and placed in Kent County and the Magistrates of Kent presided in all cases to preserve law and order. In 1871 Dresden became an incorporated village but the old system was carried on until 1875 when number three division court was established in Dresden and S. W. Wallace was appointed clerk of the court. The presiding magistrates were still the Kent County Officials until the year 1883, when John Chapple was appointed Dresden's Chief Magistrate, and John Fretz was the Town Constable. John Chapple, grandfather of Wm. Chapple who now carries the mail on R. R. 1 Dresden, held the office of chief magistrate for about ten years when he resigned on account of illness. In 1884 Noah

Waffle was chief of Police and he was succeeded by Ed Gonyou in 1886. The Town Hall was used as a Police Court. In 1891 Judge Woods was the presiding Judge and he asked that a more suitable place to hold court be arranged. The Division Court has been carried on in much the same manner until the present time. Now Ivan B. Craig, Magistrate of Chatham presides in all cases under his Jurisdiction, court is held in the Dresden Council Chamber. The Clerk of the Court at the present time is Mr. H. E. Wells. He has filled the office efficiently for over thirty-five years. We have had a number of persons appointed Justice of the Peace, the most recent of these was Myron Blackburn and now his son Alex Blackburn is the town's Justice of the Peace.

**MAYORS OF DRESDEN
From 1882 to 1950**

1882	Alexander Trerice
83	C. Livingston
84	J. W. Sharpe
85	J. W. Sharpe
86	Redford Kimmerly
87	Alexander Trerice
88	R. P. Wright
89	Asa Ribble
90	Asa Ribble
91	J. W. Sharpe
92	J. W. Sharpe
93	R. P. Wright
94	J. C. Tassie
95	D. V. Hicks
96	I. N. Carscallen
97	H. Weston
98	R. Aikin
99	J. W. Sharpe
1900	W. G. Cragg
01	Asa Ribble
02	Asa Ribble
1903	Asa Ribble
04	Asa Ribble
05	Asa Ribble
06	Dr. J. I. Wiley
07	E. H. Dever
08	N. B. Carscallen
09	N. B. Carscallen
10	L. Hughson
11	Asa Ribble
12	Dr. H. S. McDonald
13	Dr. H. S. McDonald
14	Dr. H. S. McDonald
15	Dr. H. S. McDonald
16	Charles Aikin
1917	E. B. Madden
18	E. B. Madden
19	E. B. Madden
20	M. C. A. Humphrey
21	Peter A. McDuffe
22	Peter A. McDuffe
23	C. G. Carster
24	Arthur Hoyles
25	Arthur Hoyles
26	Arthur Hoyles
27	Walter S. Weese
28	Walter S. Weese
29	Walter S. Weese
30	Arthur Hoyles
31	Walter Weese
32	Roy E. Carscallen
33	Roy E. Carscallen
34	Walter S. Weese
35	George E. Clark
36	George E. Clark
37	Arthur Hoyles
38	Arthur Hoyles
39	George E. Clark
40	George E. Clark
41	Harold McKim
42	Harold McKim
43	Harold McKim
44	Harold McKim
45	Harold McKim
46	Harold McKim
47	Harold McKim
48	Harold McKim
49—51	Walter S. Weese

Chapter Eight

DRESDEN IN 1950

The town of Dresden to-day 1950 modestly claims to be a good average municipality for towns of its size and class. The homes are as a rule kept in neat attractive condition, and many of the streets are lined with beautiful shade trees. The main street all through the town is smoothly paved, and some of the side streets are paved also. In the centre of the town there is a small park and a large playground, with a fine Band Shell where concerts are frequently held for the enjoyment of the citizens. At the south east part of town, we have a fine athletic park, with a good grandstand, and at the west end of this park there are swings and slides for the children, and a wading pool for the little tots.

Dresden has a water system which supplies good water that requires no softening for any purpose. It has reliable electric service for lighting or power requirements, and it has natural gas in plenty for cooking purposes as well as for heating the homes.

The town has a well equipped Public Library of over 5,000 books, and receives a large number from the county library every three months. At present we have a fine ten roomed brick school with three other temporary school rooms, with a staff of capable, experienced teachers who teach the full courses preparing students to enter the Universities, as well as

giving splendid physical and cultural training. We have churches of all the leading denominations serving the people, and assisting materially in the religious and social life of the people and encouraging a high standard of morality in all their activities. We have strong active fraternal societies for both men and women who encourage friendliness and goodfellowship with each other and the general public, and we have two fine service clubs who make it their pleasure to assist and encourage every good undertaking for the improvement of the town. We have a fine active branch of the Canadian Legion. We have Scouts and Girl Guides, and a fine brass band that is always ready to cater to the enjoyment of the people. The Daughters of the Empire have an active Chapter in the town that has done some essential things to show the community's gratitude to the men who served their country in two world wars. They have also encouraged education and other national projects. The House-wives club are doing creditable work in the line that their name implies, as well as assisting liberally to help crippled children, and the Community Club is striving to give to those who need it.

In the business section of the town can be found stores that provide most of the ordinary

by Harriett Beecher Stowe. All who have read the book carefully must come to the conclusion that the characters pictured therein are for the most part fictitious. But the writer is attempting to portray the evils of the slave traffic and she could not honestly do this without getting in touch with slaves who had spent years in slavery. There is much evidence that she did meet Josiah Henson and obtained from him the story of his own life in slavery, as well as that of the life of his father, and many important events in the lives of Henson and his father are graphically pictured in the life of "Uncle Tom" of the book. We all know that Josiah Henson died a

natural death and was buried in a cemetery south west of Dresden but to the writer of this article who has read Henson's complete story as well as the story of his life written by another writer, there is no doubt that Henson's life gave Harriett Beecher Stowe a vision of the character she created and called "Uncle Tom". Henson did not name himself "Uncle Tom", but every place he lectured or preached he was advertised by that name. This again is some evidence that the people of this time felt that his life had much to do with inspiring the writer of the popular book that assisted very materially in abolishing slavery.

Chapter Three

DRESDEN IS INCORPORATED A VILLAGE

Until the year 1871 when Dresden was made an incorporated village the place was governed by the officials of the district or County in which it was located. In 1849 the Municipal act was passed by which the boundaries of each municipality were defined. Dresden was then in the Township of Dawn, and was governed by Dawn Township Council composed of a Reeve and four Councillors. They had power to appoint all necessary officers, and collect taxes as at the present time. At that time there were not many settlers in Dresden, but Dawn Mills was flourishing. The task of governing a Municipality was a new experience to the leading men of this period and most

councils went carefully about the work. The Reeve of each municipality became a member of the County Council and this County Council gave assistance in making bridges, roads and important buildings. In 1853 the first ten lots of Dawn Township were separated from that township and formed the Gore of Camden which was attached to the County of Kent. Records show that James Smith of Dawn Mills, an influential member of the council at that time, was largely responsible for bringing about the above change. He argued that it was more convenient for people of Dawn Mills and the surrounding district to have their seat of government at Chatham, instead of Sarnia, and

the council acceded to his request. In the year 1850 the Gore of Chatham was formed by separation from the Township of Sombra and it too was attached to the County of Kent.

In 1871 the population of Dresden had increased to about 1,000 and the leading citizens decided to apply for separate incorporation. Alexander Trerice who came to the village as early as 1849 was one of the most public-spirited citizens and when incorporation was granted, he was chosen Reeve of the village. Alex Watson, C. M. Clancy, W. G. Huff and Horatio Hughes were the other members of the council and John Chapple, one of the early arrivals in the village, was appointed clerk. He held the office and was a very efficient officer for many years. C. R. Watson, who was running a general store in the village, was appointed treasurer. He held the same position until the year 1899 when he resigned. J. L. H. Leonard was appointed licence inspector. In the year 1872 licence was granted to six hotels and three shops. It was therefore very evident why a licence inspector was a necessary officer. Mr. Leonard at that time kept a grocery store in the village. The hotels to which licences were granted in the year 1872 were all doing a good business. Both beer and liquor were very cheap as compared with present prices. Meeting in such places with friends was the main source of entertainment for many citizens and men from the farms in the surrounding district. Following are the hotels and shops to which licence was granted: The

Green Mountain at the North West corner of the bridge, run by Wm. Cooper; the Anglo-American Hotel on St. George Street at the south corner of St. John street, run by Asa Chase; the Dresden Hotel on Metcalfe Ave. at the east end of Main St., run by W. G. Cragg; The Watson House, on Metcalfe Ave. at the east end of Queen Street, run by J. Watson; the Western Hotel, at the present (1950) post office corner, run by Joseph Shaw; the Exchange Hotel, on Brown Street run by Joseph Laycock.

The act of incorporation of the village came into effect in 1872, and the village council was then free to go ahead with many necessary improvements. Stores and business places became more numerous along St. George Street. On Water St. there was the grist mill and tannery. On Metcalfe Ave. were located the ashery, the Woolen Mill and the grist mill near the bridge. At the south west end of the bridge a foundry and machine shop were early in operation, and west of the bridge on the south side of the river, the boat building grounds were furnishing employment for several men. Reeve Alex Trerice was the enterprising citizen who assisted materially in establishing many of these enterprises.

In 1873, at the cost of \$3,500, the first brick school was built on the present grounds in North Dresden. It was a four room structure and stood a little north of the present sidewalk leading to the school. It would no doubt cost five times as much if built today. As the population increas-

HISTORY OF DRESDEN

needs for the home or personal use at fair prices and most of the stores have adopted the modern way of serving customers. We cannot boast of being a busy industrial town but we have some important industries that give employment to many of the citizens. The O & W McVean wood working factory has for many years sent its products to all parts of the country and it is still operating and employing many men. We have two busy planing mills supplying material and finished products to the district and we have flour and saw mills that provide employment for several men. We have a branch of the Greenmelk industry and one of the finest canning factories in the district. We also have the National Hardware Specialties Factory recently established here giving employment to many and several service stations which are busy all the time.

The population of the town is now 2040, some retired people but mostly busy tradesmen or business people.

Dresden has paved roads North, South, East and West into the town, and is in every way a desirable place to live.

Citizens in Dresden and district in the year 2000 may be interested to know what was going on in the year 1951 and who was then doing business and conducting the various institutions here. In order to furnish that information I am giving a brief outline of the important places and their present location.

Coming into town from the north we have a fine bowling

alley run by Ivy Moran where our citizens both men and women meet in the evening to enjoy a social hour. This is located near the corner of five side road. On the north east corner of this road is a good gas station now owned by Lloyd Houston and continuing south we have another convenient service station conducted by Gordon Hazzard. Coming into town we notice the fine smooth pavement just resurfaced in 1950 and on our right we come to Walnut street the first in the northern part of town. At the end of this street is a sawmill run by D. Misselbrook and son doing considerable business. Continuing south on St. George St. we next come to Davis St. On the south east corner a fine sales and service station has been recently erected by Gordon Wees, and a little east on Davis is an auto bumping and painting shop and a farm machinery shop next door. On the south west corner of Davis St. is the residence of Sandy McVean now occupied by his son Ronald. The next street we come to is Trerice St. Mike Fry has a grocery store on the north west corner and a short distance west on this street is the Baptist Church now in charge of Rev. Chas. Gower. On the north east corner of St. George and Trerice streets Wallace Laird has a gas station, and a little east on Trerice, Eldred Martin has a welding shop where he makes repairs to machinery and automobiles. On the south east corner of St. George and Trerice streets the Public and High Schools are located. The brick school is a fine building

HISTORY OF DRESDEN

of ten rooms and there are two temporary frame buildings just north of the main building. The principal of the High School is Mr. Edward Logan, assisted by Mr. A. Woolner, Frank Brown and others. The Public School is in charge of Mr. Shultz. Near the south west corner of St. Geo. and Trerice Streets is the Dresden Bakery, now operated by the Burns Brothers and on the next corner near the bridge is North Dresden's largest grocery run by Roy Johnston. On the south corner of Camden St. the Dresden Branch of the Legion has erected a fine recreation hall on the ground where the old Green Mountain Hotel stood, and have landscaped the grounds. About a third of a mile west of this street is the planing mill and lumber yard, formerly owned by Laird Bros. now in charge of Mrs. Edward Tew and her son. On the east side of St. George St. near the bridge a new butcher shop has been recently built now run by Bresett and Newman. The bridge, a fine cement structure, the fourth to be built over the river at this point, appears now as though it may be still standing in the year 2000.

Crossing the bridge and keeping to the west side of St. George St. we come first to a coal yard and builder's supply establishment run by George E. Clark & Son, and on the south west corner of the first street south of the bridge is another well stocked grocery store conducted by Glen Wicks. Passing along we come to a barber shop in which Will Yontz the owner finds plenty to

do. Next we come to a cement block making plant owned by George E. Clark & Son and a little south of this on the same side of the street Sam Chaffe has a small tailor shop. Then we come to another barber shop run for many years by John Creamer, now by George Wellman, a new man in the business. On the corner of the next street, St. John, Emerson's restaurant caters to many citizens and visitors with good home cooked meals. A little west on St. John St. is the Dresden Produce owned and operated by Gordon Spence and Harold Jackson, where the farmer's sell their eggs, chickens, etc. and store their meat in cold storage. Across the street from this plant is Dresden's Water Tank rising to a great height supplying water pressure to all parts of the town. Continuing south on the west side of St. George Street, we pass Mac Gillies' service station, Clarence Breaton's shoe repair shop and on the corner of the next street, Lindsley, Boyd Houston has a fine warehouse where he sells all kinds of farm machinery. A short distance west on this street is Dresden's newly erected Liquor Store and across the street is Dresden's sales barn where the farmers bring livestock and used farm machinery and auction them off every Wednesday. On the opposite corner west of the barn is a body bumping and painting shop run by Calvin Babcock. Coming back to the west side of St. George St. we pass a fine gas and station now run by Webster Bros. Bill and Stan, and next we come to Dresden's up-to-

HISTORY OF DRESDEN

date dry cleaning establishment owned and operated by John Drlicka. On the corner of the next street, Queen, is the Anglican Church built in the early days of the settlement to serve the coloured people but which they soon left because the form of worship was different to what they were accustomed to in the southern states. The Rector of this church now is the Rev. C. J. Draper. The Dresden Cenotaph erected by the Daughters of the Empire in remembrance of the fallen heroes of World Wars I and II is located on the north corner of this street. There has been some talk of moving it to some other location but no action to date. One block west on the north side of Queen and Centre Street we come to the Charlton Motor Sales and Service, run by Robert Charlton. On the west corner of Queen and Centre streets is the B. M. E. Church and next to it on Queen Street is the Evangel Tabernacle, formerly the Salvation Army Barracks. The Rev. S. S. O'Brien is pastor at the Tabernacle. On the south east corner of Queen and Centre Streets is the home office of Dr. Grass for many years one of Dresden's best known Veterinarians. Coming back to St. George St. the Dominion Bank on the south west corner has been under the management of E. W. Slaght for over twenty years, a record unequaled by any former manager in town. In the rooms above the bank is the office of Alex Blackburn, he is Justice of the Peace, Clerk of Camden Township and Secretary Treasurer of the Camden Dresden Agricultural Society. Law-

yer Osgood McVean also has his office in rooms over the Dominion Bank. He is the son of Osgood McVean who with his brother William, operated the Dresden Hub and Spoke Factory. Next to the Dominion Bank we have a busy billiard parlor in charge of Charles G. Houston, and next is a beauty shop well managed by Kathleen Paling. The Burns Bakery has a shop next door and Harold "Dutch" Ellis is doing a good barber business in the adjoining store. A stairway between the barber shop and Morley McKay's restaurant leads up to Dr. French's Dental office. Dr. H. G. French is a son of the late H. J. French, one of the best known citizens in the district. Morley McKay, a restaurant keeper of long experience, is doing a good business next to Ellis's barber shop, and Hugh Farnsworth, son of the late Robert Farnsworth, is the next store south of McKay's restaurant. Jim Ford's combination billiard hall and barber shop follows and the Metropolitan Store now managed by a young woman, Jean Law, is a variety shop selling all kinds of goods from five cents up. Next is William Crowder's boot and shoe repair store which is close to Dusten's butcher shop. Jim Dusten is a new man in business but is steadily working up a good butcher trade. The stairway between the butcher shop and Dusten's drug store leads up to the Odd Fellows' fine hall where important lodge and social meetings have been held for many years. The Rebekas also meet in this hall as well as the Odd Fellows.

HISTORY OF DRESDEN

The next store is R. R. Dusten's drug store, a well-known and well-patronized business place, and George Coyle next door carries a full line of men's wearing apparel. A stairway between the Coyle store and the Walter and Gerald Weese grocery leads up to lawyer Maurice Manderson's office. This is the office formerly occupied by George E. Weir for many years. The Weese Grocery and boot and shoe store, formerly run by Dynes Bros. has for many years been one of the busiest stores in town and it is still keeping up its reputation. George Carr's drug store is the next in line and it appears to be getting its full share of the business. The Rich-Hill men's shop is next with a full line of men's wear, and Orin Simpson's Grocery on the corner of Brown Street is the end of a busy block. Above the two last named stores is a good sized public hall where many important public gatherings are held and at the rear of the Simpson grocery facing on Brown street is a small barber shop now run by Garnet Little. Moving down Brown St. on the north side we come to a busy Insurance Office conducted by George Brooker and next door to this Harold Kalar has a shop where he supplies batteries and tires for all makes of cars. The first street crossing Brown Street is Centre St. and the second is Cross St. If we go one block north on Cross St. we come to Gordon Boylan's house and office. He is now the most prominent Veterinarian in the town and district. Returning to St. George St. on the side of Brown we pass the

Market Square on which is located a small park and the Band Shell where many fine band concerts are held. We then come to the Dresden Public Library with over five thousand books and all the latest papers and magazines are to be found with Mrs. V. Kalar, the librarian in charge. East of the library is a building containing the necessary equipment to take care of telephone calls on the dialing system and next to this is a large frame structure built in 1951 to shelter all types of machinery now in charge of Gilis Driesman who came here recently. Continuing on the south side of Brown we come to the Boy Scout and Girl Guide Hall. Then we come to the office where the Dresden Times is printed by the Bowes Bros. and next to this is a fine furniture store and funeral office, where Walter Holmes carries on a successful business. Then we reach the insurance office of H. E. and Keith Wells. H. E. Wells is also the Clerk of the Court for Dresden. A stairway next to Wells' insurance leads up to Dr. Woods dental office in the rooms to the left, and to the right is a lawyer's office occupied only once or twice a week by McNevin, Gee and O'Connor, a law firm whose chief office is in the city of Chatham, and above these rooms on the third floor of the corner Hardware, is the meeting place of the Eastern Star, one of the prominent women's lodges in the district. The hardware store at the corner of Brown St. is now conducted by John Hunt. It was built by the Carscallen Bros. in

the early days of the town. At this point the name of the main street in town changes from St. George St. to North St. Passing south on the west side of North St., we come to a well conducted gas station, owned and operated by E. W. Sharpe, a descendant of one of the earliest families in the district. Next to Sharpe's gas station is a vacant lot on which Dr. L. G. Payne is preparing to build a well-equipped office. Noble Law's grocery is the next business place, and just south of this is the small but very busy office of Dr. Payne on the corner of Robinson St. Two blocks down Robinson St. is the Walter Holmes Funeral Parlours at the south-west corner of the market square, and Dr. Ruttle's office and home is on the corner of North and Robinson Sts. Just south of Dr. Ruttle's home is the Dresden Bowling Green, and the next street is Hughes St., named after the first English Church Clergyman in Dresden. At the west end of this street, is the Hub and Spoke factory operated successfully for many years by the McVean family but now owned by Hayes Wheel Co. Continuing south on North St. we come to Victoria Ave. One block down this street is the Jack Grass Funeral Home, in a house formerly owned by John McLocklin. The next street is Holden. About one mile down this street is the grave of the Rev. Josiah Henson, the "Uncle Tom" of the Harriett Beecher Stowe famous book.

Dresden Fair Grounds —

A short distance south of Park St. is the Dresden Camden Agric-

cultural Fair Grounds with a fine race track, and south of this is the railway station, formerly the Erie and Huron, but now the Chesapeake and Ohio. This brings us to the end of places of interest on the West side of North and St. George Streets.

Returning to the busy part of Dresden we notice a busy gas station and refreshment store on the east side of the road opposite the Fair Grounds. This is now run by J. Van Der Meersch. Another gas station doing a good business on the east side of the road near the southern limit of the town is owned by Sandy Gillies and then we come to a large open space where the Dresden District High School is to be built, when all the arrangements are approved by the Department of Education at Toronto. The first street we come to on the east side of North St. is Sydenham St. A short distance down this street we come to Tecumseh. A little south on this is the Dresden Kinsmen Athletic Park which is a splendid recreation ground for the whole town and a real credit to the organization which planned it. Continuing east on Sydenham St. we come to Wellington St. and a short distance south on this new street is the National Hardware Specialties factory. The next street running south from Sydenham is a short one leading to the Canadian Canners' fine new plant and at the end of Sydenham on the river bank is the Greenmek factory where they manufacture dehydrated Alfalfa meal. Returning to North Street on the east side we have the Un-

ited Church on the corner of Brock St. Rev. Howard Johnson is now the pastor of this church. One block east on Brock St. is the Roman Catholic Church where Rev. Father Page has a large devoted congregation. On the north east corner of North and Brock Street, a busy gas station and express office is conducted by Douglas Weese, who is at present the Reeve of the Town. Continuing north on this east side of North Street we come to the Ford Car sales and service, a well conducted establishment now owned by George Duff, and next to him Roy Carseallen, son of the earliest settlers, sells all kinds of insurance. The next building is the office of the North Kent Mutual Insurance Company now managed by John Houston, and north of this Ernest Pegg has an extensive tire and auto accessories shop. Then we come to the south corner of Main St. on which is located the Canadian Bank of Commerce now under the management of Mr. C. Beckett. This was the location of one of the first business places in Dresden, a grocery store run by C. P. Watson in which he also conducted the Post Office.

Moving east on Main Street we come to a modern grocery store run by Orlah Martin under the name of Martin's Nu-Way grocery, and east of this is the Sydenham Valley Hatchery run by Wilbert North. Next door Mr. H. S. Fraser has a fine dry goods store selling a full line of clothing needs for women and most of the family. A hallway next door

leads up to the Masonic Lodge Hall where a strong organization holds many social and business meetings. A poolroom run by Harvey Sutton is the next store, and east of this is a fine gents' furnishing and dry goods store, established in the early history of the town by Robert Aikin now in charge of his son and daughter Charles and Eva Aikin. Lyle Wicks has a good furniture store east of the Aikin store and Walter Tricker is next with a good stock of paints, wallpaper, and everything needed to decorate the home inside and out. The next store east on Main St. is Chantler's second hand store, and the Wescott House on the corner of Tecumseh St. is being well patronized. On the east corner of Tecumseh the Union Natural Gas Co. has its office, and east of this is a large space on which Byron McKim and Son displays all sorts of farm machinery. The fine new Hydro Office recently completed is the next important business place, and, a small building near the corner of Water St. is used as a work and play building for the Boy Scouts. A step or two south on Water St. is the Dresden Greenhouse now owned by Art Wachsmuth, and across the road on the river bank is a flour mill now owned by the T. H. Taylor Co. of Chatham, Ontario. Returning to the north side of Main St. H. R. McKim has a seed grain and fertilizer business in the remains of a flour mill that was burned some time ago and Jack Kimmerly's blacksmith sh-

HISTORY OF DRESDEN

op is still a busy place. Wallace King has recently built a good-sized building where he sells all kinds of goods and supplies for heating and plumbing and then we come to the Post Office on the corner of Main and St. George Streets, with Irvine Law, a veteran of five years service overseas, the Postmaster.

Continuing north on the east side of St. George Street J. L. "Landy" Johnston conducts an up-to-date grocery store, and Charles Clark's restaurant catering to all comers is the next place of business. Donald J. Weese, son of Mayor Weese, is next with a full line of up to the minute men's apparel and Garnet Eves Jewellery store and gift shop is a credit to a town the size of Dresden. H. S. Fraser's store with every kind of wearing apparel for children is just north of Eves Jewellery and Peter McDuffe's grocery is next. George Ross has a well patronized Variety Store next to McDuffe's and Jack McKay, a veteran who served overseas in World War II has a well-stocked hardware. On the corner of Queen St. is Swainston's restaurant, a first class place to get refreshments or meals at all times of the day. East of Swainston's on Queen St. is the Baptist Church, one of the first churches to be built in Dresden. The present pastor is the Rev. George Simmons. At the east end of Queen St. is the old plant of the Canad-

ian Canners, now used mostly as a store house, and on the north side of the same street is Rufus Law's sales and service garage operated by Rufus and his sons. Dr. R. D. McAlpine's home and office is the next place of interest on the north east corner of St. George and Queen Sts. This was formerly the home and office of Dr. Wiley, father of Mrs. (Dr.) R. D. McAlpine.

Continuing north on St. George St. we come to a small restaurant known as Watson's Diner, where a great number of folks drop in for a quick lunch or refreshments, and next to this is a large show room where Byron McKim and his son Harold have a large stock of modern household appliances, radios, television, refrigerators, tractors and farm machinery. Just north of McKim's is the Dresden Theatre now run by Murray Weatherald, who also sells radios and television, in a small office next to the Theatre. Then on the corner of Lindsley St. is the Dresden Creamery operated by Francis Foster where he buys and sells produce of the farm such as milk, eggs, poultry, etc. and makes large quantities of butter, in a modern plant at the rear of his office. He also has a large storage building on the south side of Lindsley St. where he stores poultry while it is being prepared for market. On the north corner of Lindsley and St. George Sts. is a fine sales and service garage, now run by Brown and Richardson and next to this is the town clerk's office with Mr.

HISTORY OF DRESDEN

Edward Kyle in charge. Mr. Kyle is clerk treasurer and he has served the town for over thirty years first as superintendent of Hydro for about ten years and clerk of the town for more than twenty years. Next to the Clerk's office is a stairway leading up to the Council Chamber on the left and to the Dresden Firemen's room on the right. The fire engine is in a large room under the Council Chamber and the fire alarm is conveniently arranged in the same building. All the above from the Clerk's office to the fire alarm are in one building known to the citizens as the Fire Hall. Next we come to the Police Station now the office of Chief of Police Watson. This was formerly the Hydro Office, but is now a convenient place for the Police to meet. North of the Police Station is part of the Dresden Hydro Power plant, and the next place of interest is the Dresden Presbyterian Church with the Rev. W. L. Newton B. A. the Minister in charge. This is on the south corner of St. John St. and at the east end of this street on the river bank is the Bresett Planing Mill where they sell all kinds of lumber and manufacture doors, sashes and all kinds of trimming needed for building. On the north side of St. John St. is the Czechoslovakian Hall, a large building built by Czechoslovakian people for their own meetings and which they rent to all comers for dances, and entertainments of all kinds.

On the north corner of St. John and St. George Sts. is a neat

store where R. Kalar has a good display of electrical appliances, lamps etc. and north of this is an open space where the School bus is parked. Next in line, north is a plumbing and heating establishment run by Howard Manderson where he has a good stock of everything needed in that business and this is followed by the Oliver Sales and Service where J. G. Murphy sells all kinds of farm machinery. Then we come to a large well-equipped sales and service garage now run by the Wilmott Bros. These young men served Canada in World War II and gained a great deal of valuable experience while in the army. On the north corner of Metcalfe Ave. is the mill run for many years by Sandy McVean. This is now run under the name of Dresden Grain and Feed establishment and does an extensive business buying and selling grain. It has a special plant a little east of the main building where they clean and select grain for seed and prepare it to sell at the top market price.

The outstanding events of the year 1952 have not been numerous but one at the beginning of the year came as a severe shock to the Town and Community. The Mayor and Council had been elected late in the year 1951, and we were looking forward to a busy prosperous year. The new council had held an early meeting in January and a number of important matters were discussed

HISTORY OF DRESDEN

and planned. But one afternoon the news was flashed around town that Walter S. Weese, Mayor of the Town, was dead.

The election of a new Mayor was not an easy problem for the 1952 Council. Harold McKim, who had been Mayor for eight consecutive years was already a member of the council, but he did not wish again to step into the Mayor's responsibilities. However a new nomination meeting was arranged and Harold McKim was the only person nominated so he decided to accept the office making the ninth year he has served as Mayor.

In the year 1952 a number of events worthy of notice happened in the town. Mr. Edward Kyle, clerk of the municipality for 23 years resigned the office and was given a small retiring allowance. He served the town as superintendent of the Hydro Plant for about nine years before he was appointed clerk. He did not live long to enjoy his retirement for on Dec.

9th, 1952 he died after a short illness.

Mr. Arthur Lennon, a former bank accountant, was appointed clerk of the town when Mr. Kyle resigned.

In 1952 there were considerable building projects in the town. The North Dresden Baptist Church completed an addition to their Church which gave more room for Sunday School classes and at the same time more accommodation for the members and visitors at times when the church was overcrowded.

The Dresden United Church also built a large hall and recreation room to relieve the over crowding in the basement of the church where Sunday School and other meetings were held. They also installed a new organ the whole cost being about \$40,000.

The Presbyterian Church also installed a new organ which makes their church more attractive and their services more interesting to all who attend.

— finis —

Printed by The Dresden Times